

A COMPENDIOUS
H I S T O R Y
O F
E N G L A N D,
FROM THE
INVASION BY THE ROMANS,
TO THE
P R E S E N T T I M E.

ADORNED WITH
A MAP of GREAT-BRITAIN and IRELAND,
AND EMBELLISHED WITH
Thirty-one CUTS of all the KINGS and QUEENS
who have reign'd since the Conquest.

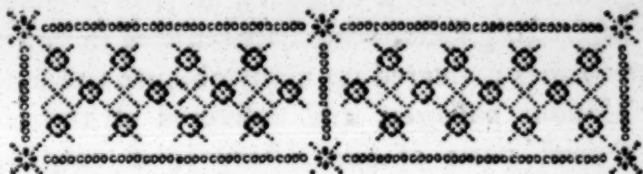
The SECOND EDITION, corrected.

*As nothing teaches, so nothing delights, more than
HISTORY. The first of these recommends it to the
Study of grown Men, the latter makes me think it
the best for Youth.* LOCKE on Education.

L O N D O N:

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P R E F A C E.

THE great Number of Volumes which the Press has produced on this subject, may, perhaps, render some apology necessary for the publication of this; which, however, the Author is not inclined to make.—Sincerity needs little ceremony.—He does not want to impose upon mankind, but to serve them; and this book, which is published for their use, they are welcome either to receive or reject, as is agreeable to their interest or inclination.

He is sensible that little applause is to be obtained by compiling a HISTORY of ENGLAND out of the many already extant, since the task is rather mechanical than intellectual, and depends more on the hand than the head: But if it should be found that,

within so small a compass, he has inserted interesting facts, which are omitted in larger volumes ; cleared up many obscure and ambiguous passages, and delivered all the essential parts of our history in a concise, distinct and entertaining manner, without party reflections or asperity, his little work, we presume, will be intitled to some regard from the public ; and, tho' intended principally for youth, will be read by those of more advanced years and experience.





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T H E I N T R O D U C T I O N.

 H E pens of many learned men have been employed to account for the first peopling of this island, and to ascertain whether its inhabitants were Aborigines, or from what country it was colonized ; and tho' a disquisition of this kind is beside our present purpose, and not to be expected in the compass of this Volume, yet a cursory view of what the learned have said on the subject will not, we presume, be disagreeable to our readers.

After the deluge, the three sons of Noah repaired the loss of mankind, and replenished the earth with new inhabitants : Shem, it is supposed, repeopled Asia ; Ham, Africa ; and Japhet, all Europe. Admitting this, and that the ancient Britons were the descendants of Japhet, we are still in the dark with respect to the first peopling of this island ; for Japhet's offspring, however fruitful, could not have repeopled such an amazing tract of land, but in a long course of

B

years ;

ii INTRODUCTION.

years; and as this island is at a great distance from the plains of Shinar where Babel was built, and whence the sons of Noah are supposed to have departed and taken their different progresses, 'tis reasonable to suppose (even if we allow the Britons to be the descendants of Japhet) that the island was peopled by some nation from the continent: but what nation that was, is the great question, and has long been a matter of dispute among the learned. Some have been extravagant enough in their conjectures to suppose it was colonized by Samoths, or Dis, one of the descendants of Japhet, about 200 years after the flood. There are others who have drawn the whole series of British Princes from Brutus to the entrance of Julius Cæsar; and these seem to have kept within the pale of probability, and to have laid the best foundation for their assertions, which, according to Milton, have been defended by many, and denied utterly by few: They not only bring the Britons from noble ancestry, but endeavour to make them of one original with the Romans; as they represent Brutus to be grandson of Ascanius, whose father was Æneas.

But these are only conjectures, and 'tis yet uncertain what people first took possession of the island, tho' we may reasonably conclude that a great part of it was, in the early ages of mankind, peopled by the Phœnicians, whose pedigree the great Bochartus derives from Anak, and learnedly proves from the identities of their names, situations, languages, institutions, arts, manners, customs,

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customs, gods, rites and ceremonies, that they were the same with the Canaanites, the land of Canaan being familiarly called the land of the Phœnicians, and the Phœnicians the Canaanites; an example whereof we have in St. Matthew's Gospel, where the woman Rahab is called a Canaanite; and by St. Mark's interpretation, is made a Syro-Phœnician; which clearly demonstrates that they were both of one original. These were the people so generally famed for promoting commerce, and distributing arts and sciences through the then known world; and that which so early rendered them skilful in navigation, was not only their *ambition of Empire*, or their natural genius to maritime affairs, but the necessity they were under of inventing the best and safest means of escaping the hands of Joshua, who persecuting them with an army of Israelites, had driven them into a part of the earth too narrow to contain so great and numerous a body; they therefore built themselves store of good shipping, and came from Tyre and Sidon, to seek their fortunes in other countries. They took possession of several places bordering upon the Mediterranean sea, and other parts of Europe, Asia and * Africa; and being accustomed to navigation and merchandizing, by which they had greatly enriched their city of Tyre,

B 2

they

* That the Phœnicians had possession of part of Africa, appears by two pillars of stone found in the kingdom of Tangier, not far from the Straits mouth, with a Phœnician inscription, importing *that they* (that is to say, the people who erected these pillars) *flew from the face of Joshua the son of Nun.*

iv INTRODUCTION.

they ventured to sail through the Straits of Gibraltar in pursuit of new discoveries, and arriving at the isles of Scilly, called afterwards by the Greeks the Cassiterides, they traded with the inhabitants for tin, lead, and skins, for which they gave them in exchange earthen pots, salt, and brazen wares. Finding the sweets of this trade, which they endeavoured to keep secret from the busy Greeks, (who were also become merchants, and about to rival them in commerce) they proceeded farther into Cornwall, Devonshire, and other parts of this island, where they planted colonies of their own, and gave it the name of Bratanac, which in the Phœnician tongue signifies a *country or field of tin*.

But notwithstanding their care to conceal this trade, the Grecians, on or about the time of the declension of the Phœnician state, by some means found out this source of wealth, and began to trade in these parts, when, agreeably to the vanity and fraud of their nation, which endeavoured to fix the honour of all primitive knowledge on their own ancestors, they new-modelled the names of places, and of things they had learned from the Phœnicians, according to their own idiom, or quite changed them in sound, tho' not in signification, whence this island, which had been called Bratanac by the Phœnicians, obtained from the Grecians the name of Britannia. And this seems to be the case likewise, with respect to the word Albion, another name for this island, which the Greeks claim to themselves, tho' it evidently appears to have been modelled from the

Phœn.

INTRODUCTION. ▼

Phœnician word Alben, white, (from the white cliffs on the coast) or from Alpin, which in the Phœnician tongue signifies a high mountain. And there are many high cliffs where the Phœnicians landed, which are from them called Pens to this day. And this seems also to account for the names of many towns so peculiar to that part of the island, as Penrose, Penzance, Pengarsick, Penwarron, Pendennis, Penryn, Pentuan, Penrock: And the name of Tira, or by contraction Tra, signifying in the Phœnician tongue a castle, accounts also for the great number of towns in those parts beginning with the word Tre, as Trewofe, Trenowth, Tregenno, Trevascus, Trenona, Treworgan, Trelistick, Trefusus, Tremardart, Tregonoe, in all which places it is probable forts or small castles were built by the Phœnicians for the security of their trade.

There are many other traces of the Phœnicians in this part of the country. For Meneg, a great part of Cornwall, is of Phœnician derivation, and signifies kept in by the sea. And in this Peninsula, which retains its Phœnician name, there is a fortification of stones only, without cement and mortar, agreeably to the manner of the eastern nations. This rude heap of stones the inhabitants to this day call Erth, from the lake on which it lies, for the Phœnicians called all lakes Arith: But the truth of the Phœnicians being here, does not depend upon conjecture, but is authenticated by the concurrent testimony of many ancient authors, who generally agree that Hercules son of Dæmarus,

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of Tyre, having left that city with a large body of his countrymen, and possessed himself of part of Italy, Spain, and of the African coast, and built several cities on the * Straits of Gibraltar, discovered the Western Sea long before the Trojan war; soon after which, it is supposed, this island was also discovered, and probably by himself; for his skill in navigation was so great, that the Grecians † called him the God of the Sea, and the Phœnicians gave him the name of Macariah or Terrible. There are likewise other things that favour this conjecture, for as upon the sea coast of Belgium (which he conquered as well as Iberia) there was an altar inscribed to Hercules, so in Devonshire there was a promontory called by his name, which to this day retains something of it in two little towns, Hartlow, or Hertland, alias Herton, as also in the Promontory itself called Herty point.

After his death he was worshipped as a God by many nations, and in Britain by the name of Ogmios. At Hartlow, which is supposed to take its name from Hercules, many effigies of him have

* The rocks of Gibralter are, in the ancient histories, generally called either *Hercules's Pillars*, or the *Rock of Conquest*.

† The Phœnician and Grecian HERCULES are by most ancient authors supposed to be the same; and considering how amazingly great the voyages and exploits of Hercules must appear to the nations in that Age of the world, it is no wonder that the Greeks, who were ever fond of fame, should in the course of time adopt him for their countryman.

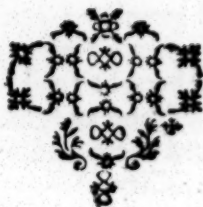
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been dug up. He was depicted, drawing a multitude of men after him, with golden chains proceeding from his mouth and fastened to their ears, to shew his eloquence; and a globe in one hand, with a compass in the other, to shew his excellent skill in geometry and astronomy. This is a relation of the true Phœnician Hercules called Ogmius, as far as it concerns our present purpose; as for his great labours and achievements, these we have purposely omitted, because they seem not to be real actions but allegories; the explication of which requires rather a skilful mythologist, than an honest historian. His credit was undoubtedly great in those primitive ages of the world, which made so many of the succeeding heroes fond of assuming his name. Many of his exploits, we may suppose, were worthy of eternal memory; but here we are to bewail the superstition of the people of those times, who never thought they sufficiently magnified the dignity of those they designed to praise unless they stretched their achievements beyond all bounds of credibility.

Hence it appears that this country was colonized by the Phœnicians, but how it was originally peopled is yet uncertain, and is a piece of ignorance that we must bequeath to our successors in the manner our ancestors have left it us. That there were inhabitants here when the Phœnicians first discovered the country, is allowed by all historians; and Cæsar tells us that the isles of Scilly were peopled by Germans; but in this conjecture, even the great Cæsar himself might

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might be mistaken. However, as the account he has given us of this island, and its ancient inhabitants, is perhaps, in general, very just, and the only one that can be depended on, we shall begin our HISTORY with that period of time, when it was invaded by the Romans.



THE



THE
H I S T O R Y
O F
E N G L A N D.



C H A P. I.

*Of ENGLAND before the Invasion of JULIUS
CÆSAR.*

B RITAIN, which was originally called Albion, as we have observed, from the white cliffs that are seen from the opposite shore of the continent, was but little known to the rest of the world before the invasion of Julius Cæsar. The men at the time of his invasion were generally tall and well proportioned, and the women were distinguished by their fair complexions, and the delicacy of their features; They were
remark-

remarkable for their yellow hair, which both the men and women wore long; the men, however, shaved all the face except the upper lip: some were covered with the skins of beasts, and others went entirely naked; but had their bodies painted of a sky colour with the juice of woad, and adorned with the figures of suns, moons, stars, flowers, trees, and animals, somewhat in the manner here represented. They



lived chiefly on milk and the flesh of the beasts they killed in hunting; and set little value on corn. The whole country was extremely populous, and abounded with wild and tame cattle; but their
houses

houses were meanly built, and scattered in an irregular manner; for as whoever settled upon an uncultivated spot, was esteemed the only proprietor, every man situated himself according to his pleasure, either as he was invited by the fertility of the soil, or the advantages of wood and water. They had, however, some inland towns, which were placed in the midst of woods, surrounded and fenced about with a ditch and rampart; and others on the coast, for the advantage of trading with such foreigners as came from the continent to exchange their commodities for the tin and hides, for which this island was famous. They had the happiness of being situated in a pleasant and fertile country, surrounded by the sea, well watered with rivers, and abounding with all the necessaries of life; but they were idolators, and their language, customs and religion, nearly resembled those of the Gauls, who were placed on the shore of the opposite continent. In their religion and laws they were entirely under the government of the Druids*, Bard, and Eubates.

The authority of the Druids was almost absolute; for they were held in such veneration, that even a malefactor could not be put to death without their consent. They were a superior order of priests, and the principal legislators: They taught that every thing derives its origin from Heaven; that souls are immortal, and

* So called from the *British* word *Deru*, or from the Greek *Δρῦς*, both signifying an *Oak*, their sacred places being groves of oaks; or perhaps from the *mistletoe* that grows on oaks, which was held in great veneration by them for its medicinal virtues,

that those of the wicked pass into other bodies, till they are completely purified; but that there is another world, and that they who kill themselves to accompany their dying friends will live with them there. The Druids also offered sacrifices to their idols, and on particular occasions even human victims.

The Bards were priests of an inferior order, who celebrated the praises of their heroes in verses and songs, which they adapted to music, and sung to their harps.

The Eubates applied themselves to the study of Philosophy, and, by observing the strictest rules of virtue and temperance themselves, were thought sufficiently qualified to instruct and reprove others.

At Julius Cæsar's invasion the country was divided into many distinct governments, each of which was under the power of a petty Prince; of which there were seventeen from the channel to the Tyne; and from that river to the utmost bounds of the north, the eastern part was inhabited by the Picts, (who were so called from their painting their bodies,) and the western by the Scots. The people were brave and warlike, but unacquainted with military discipline: Their strength chiefly consisted in their foot, tho' upon occasion they could bring great numbers of horse into the field. Their common arms were short spears, with a round brass bell fastened to they end, which at the beginning of the fight they shook in order to terrify the enemy; they had also large heavy swords, and small shields. In the beginning of a battle they fought in chariots, which had sharp scythes fastened to the

the ends of the axle-trees; with these they made fierce charges upon the enemies ranks, and were, as Cæsar observes, so expert in the management of them, that they could turn short, or stop their horses, on the declivity of a steep hill; but when they were mixed among the enemy, they fought on foot, and upon occasion retired to their chariots, whence they annoyed the enemy with their arrows.

C H A P. II.

From the landing of JULIUS CÆSAR, to the end of the Roman government in BRITAIN.

THE first blow that was struck at the liberties of Britain, was at Cæsar's landing about Richborough in Kent, on the 26th of August, in the 54th year before the Christian Æra, when the naked undisciplined inhabitants of this island made a brave and noble defence against the Romans who were cloathed in armour, skilled in all the arts and stratagems of war, and had the best disciplined troops in the world. The Britons expected Cæsar, and therefore had prepared to oppose him. All the petty states had united under one commander, named Cassibelan, elected for the preservation of the whole*. Their love of liberty inspired them with a courage equal to

* Their love of liberty prevented Cæsar from making a conquest of the island, for though he made the best of his story, yet the Romans themselves did not look upon Britain as a conquer'd country. Nay, Lucan accuses him with turning his back upon the Britons, and Horace, Tibullus and Tacitus hint, that in their days the Britons were considered as a free and unconquered people.

that of despair; they ran into the sea to attack the Roman galleys, and by their intrepidity struck the invaders with terror. At length the Roman Standard-bearer cast himself into the water, and was followed by the soldiers, from the fear of the greatest dishonour that could happen to them, the loss of their standard. The Romans were greatly annoyed in landing, 'till they formed their ranks, but their regular disposition then obliged the Britons to retire, though without being pursued.

Cæsar, however, was so far from making a conquest of Britain, that he only paid it two short visits with various success; and was glad, after having taken Verulam, now called St. Albans, which was Cassibelan's chief town, to depart, upon obtaining the promise of an annual tribute to Rome, which, however, was never paid. Nor did Augustus, Tiberius, or Caligula, though they often threatened it, ever send any forces into Britain. But what Rome could not accomplish by conquest, she effected by policy. The intercourse between the Britons and Gauls made the former very familiar with the Romans, to whom the latter were subject. The Britons, after the example of the Romans, made improvements in the civil arts; but at the same time they lost that love of virtue and independency which had animated their ancestors, and were no longer unanimous in the defence of liberty; their Princes, jealous of each other, instead of uniting, made intestine wars, and the civil dissensions made them fall an easy prey to the Romans, for Britain was conquered by Claudius in the years 43 and 44, and became a Roman province.

The Britons, however, made several struggles to recover their liberty; they chose the brave Caractacus their commander in chief; but after a great battle fought in the year 50, they were defeated by Suetonius; Caractacus with his wife and daughter were carried to Rome, and with their attendants were led in a sort of triumphal procession before the Emperor Claudius, when Caractacus made a bold and animated speech, which so affected the Emperor, that he immediately pardoned his royal captive, his wife and family. *

Afterwards the tyranny of the Roman governors made the Britons exert themselves under the injured Boadicea, a woman of royal extraction, and of a spirit superior to the highest eminence of fortune. Her husband Prasutagus was a British Prince, who governed under the protection of the Romans, and who to preserve his wealth in his family, appointed the Emperor Nero his coheir, with his two daughters, whom he left under the guardianship of their mother; but upon that Prince's death, Catus Decianus, Superintendent of the imperial Exchequer, took possession of the whole; had the insolence to order Queen Boadicea to be most dishonourably beaten with stripes, and her daughters to be most infamously ravished by the soldiers. The Britons, who were before provoked by the heaviest grievances, took up arms, and several Prin-

* When Caractacus beheld the riches and grandeur of the city of Rome he reproved the Romans for their avarice, and told them, *he was amazed that they, who were masters of such glorious things, should be so greedy after the mean bits and possessions of the poor Britons.*

ces united, under the conduct of the brave and injured Boadicea, and with their joint forces, amounting to 120,000 men, surprized one of the Roman colonies, took and burnt the city, and put all the Romans that could be found to the sword; following this success, Boadicea destroyed several other cities and colonies, and in this general massacre put to death 70,000 Romans. But afterwards, in a battle fought with Sempronius, whose army consisted of only 10,000 or 20,000 men, she was entirely defeated, and 80,000 Britons slain on the spot; and tho' Boadicea escaped, she was so affected by her shame and loss, that she poisoned herself.

By this dreadful defeat, which happened in the year 61, an end was put to the British liberties, and to all their hopes of over recovering them. The Roman armies were recruited; fresh colonies planted; and the Roman legions being fill'd up by Britons for their wars abroad, the island was drained of its natural strength, and the Britons disabled from revolting. Several of them, however, chose to relinquish their possessions, and retire into the mountains of Wales, and into the north among the Scots and Picts, rather than live in subjection to the Roman yoke. These made a continual war on the Romans; while other Britons wore the dress, spoke the language, and servilely affected to imitate the manners of their conquerors.

The arms of the Romans were at length carried into the country of the Caledonians, or Scotland, where Agricola, about the year 83, bound ed his conquest on the north, by erecting a chain of forts from the Frith of Forth to the Frith of Cloyde. But the Picts and Scots frequently renew-

ing their incursions, and ravaging the Roman provinces, several of the Emperors were obliged to come over in person to oppose the efforts of their invincible courage. At last Severus penetrated into the country of the Caledonians, and defeated them in some engagements; but being unable to reduce them, erected a wall, about the year 205, which extended from the entrance of Solway Frith in Cumberland to the German sea, and was called the Picts Wall, because it divided the Picts from the Britons.

The Britons at last sunk into the lowest degree of degeneracy, were held in a state of servitude by the Romans, and as the Roman forces and great numbers of the ablest and best natives were drawn from Britain, on account of the disputes between the several competitors for the Empire, the unconquered Picts and Scots still more boldly infested the northern parts, hovering about the coasts in little wicker boats covered with leather, and spreading desolation and slaughter wherever they landed, till being repelled, they retired to their northern nest, watching the next occasion for an invasion. This was the state of Britain, till near the destruction of the Roman Empire; when having no longer the Romans to fight their battles, they elected several Princes, and at last chose Vortigern their chief, who with the concurrence of the people invited the Saxons to come to their assistance.

Christianity had been established in Britain ever since the conversion of * Constantine, about the

C 3

* It is to be observed that the Britons having rebelled under their King Coilus, the Emperor Constantine came over

the year 318; for before that time it had made but little progress; but after its having flourished for above an hundred years, the Christians had the misfortune to fall a prey to a foreign race of Pagans.

C H A P. III.

From the landing of the Saxons in 448, to the end of the Saxon Heptarchy in 829.

THE Saxons, to whom the Britons applied for assistance, were in possession of East and West-Friesland, Holland, Zealand, Westphalia, and Saxony, and the center of their Empire was at Brunswick. They were clad in strong armour; their arms were long spears, and small shields, with swords like cutlasses. Their cloaths were loose cassocks, generally made of linen cloth, and trimmed with large borders wrought of several colours. Their hair hung down upon their shoulders; and they were remarkable for the hardiness and strength of their bodies, and the beauty of their persons. These were the men who, after they had conquered the country they were desired to protect, reared up the solid basis of British liberty.

Hengist and Horfa were appointed to command the Saxon troops intended for the relief of Britain; and Vortigern with the consent of the nation absurdly appointed lands in the isle of Thanet

over himself, and finding King Coilus dead, married his fair daughter Helena, by whom he had Constantine the Great the first Christian Emperor; who, it is supposed, was taught Christianity by his mother, the Britons having received the gospel soon after our Saviour's death.

for the residence and support of these auxiliaries, who fought their battles, and soon increasing their numbers, extended beyond the little limits prescribed them by Vortigern, who marrying Hengist's daughter Rowena, gave him the possession of Kent. The Saxons now began to grow powerful, and the natives saw their mistake, but saw it too late. They endeavoured to drive the Saxons out of the island, but these being reinforced from time to time by many thousands of their countrymen, the eastern part of the kingdom was soon brought under their yoke, and they were every day extending their conquests; yet the ancient inhabitants supported themselves in the western parts 'till the time of Cadwallader, who seeing his forces so diminished by a plague and famine that he could not make head against his enemies, retired into a part of France, called since from his followers Britany, where he continued 'till he found his affairs were quite irrecoverable, and then went to Rome and threw himself into a monastery, where he died. After this the Saxons soon possessed themselves of the southern part of Britain, (Wales only excepted) and gave it the name of England, from the Angles the first of their nation who came over.

In process of time, this part of Britain was divided into seven kingdoms, called from their number the Heptarchy. These were Kent; Suffex, or the kingdom of the South Saxons, comprehending Suffex and Surry; Wessex, containing Berkshire, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, and Devonshire; Essex, or East Saxons, comprehending Middlesex, Essex, and part of Hertfordshire; East-Anglia, containing

containing Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridge-shire; Northumberland, containing the six northern counties beyond the Humber; and Mercia, the largest of all, which comprehended the rest of England, exclusive of Wales, which was still governed by British Princes, and never brought under their subjection.

These kingdoms were however gradually raised, and during the growth of the Saxon power, there was a succession of British Princes, among whom there were several who distinguished themselves in as glorious a manner against the Saxons, as their heroic ancestors had done against the Romans.

ETHELBERT, King of Kent, was the first Saxon Prince who embraced Christianity. He was brave and ambitious, but attempting to exercise a sovereign authority over the other seven kingdoms, in which he was the more likely to succeed on account of his marriage with Bertha, the daughter of Caribert King of Paris, the other Princes became jealous of his power, formed a league against him, and obliged him to keep within the limits of his own kingdom. Christianity began again to be introduced into England in 597, by the influence of Bertha his Queen, who was a Christian, and at whose desire Augustine, a monk, was sent from Rome with several other priests, by whom Ethelbert and great numbers of the people were made proselytes to the christian religion. Augustine was made the first Archbishop of Canterbury; and by this means Christianity was soon spread through the whole Heptarchy; but as this was done by the

com-

command of the Pope, the Roman Pontiffs unhappily obtained the power of trampling upon the liberties of England for many generations.

At length the Saxon Kings making war upon each other, several revolutions were produced, and in the year 828, near 400 years after the arrival of the Saxons, Egbert, King of Westex, compleated the reduction of the other Saxon Kings, and became the sole Monarch of England, after the Heptarchy had lasted 378 years.

C H A P. IV.

From the end of the Heptarchy to the beginning of the reign of WILLIAM the CONQUEROR.

EG B E R T, who was now the sole Monarch of all the seven kingdoms, was in 829 crown'd at Winchester, King of Britain, by the consent both of the clergy and laity assembled in a general council, when a proclamation was published, ordering, that no future distinction should be kept up among the Saxon kingdoms; but that they all should pass under the common name of England. Winchester was the capital of his dominions. However, the kingdoms of Northumberland, Mercia, and East Anglia, were governed by tributary Princes.

While Egbert was enjoying the fruits of his conquest, and had disbanded his victorious army, and the people were beginning to taste the sweets of peace, the Danes, who during the Heptarchy had made several descents upon the British coast, but

but were repulsed and driven back, now came with a fleet of thirty-five sail, and 18,000 men; but Egbert, who instantly prepared to receive them, attacked them while they were landing, and endeavoured to cut them off, before they well formed, but his success did not answer his expectations. They encamped near the river Char, where a battle was fought, and Egbert was obliged to retreat, after the loss of a great part of his army: However, notwithstanding this victory, the Danes were so afraid of Egbert, that they soon returned to their ships and left the island; and landing again two years after in Cornwall, they were totally defeated; yet the next year the Danes ventured to land again, and Egbert again repeated his victory, but died soon after in the year 836, after having enjoyed his conquests about eight years. Egbert was the first and greatest Monarch of England, and was well entitled to the name of Egbert the Great.

ETHELWULF succeeded his father Egbert in 836, tho' he had before embraced a monastic life. In the very first year of his reign, the Danes landed at Southampton in 33 ships, but were attacked and routed with great slaughter. However the next year, making a descent upon Portland, a battle was fought, in which many of the English were slain, and the Danes left in possession of the field of battle. In 838 they made another descent about Romney in Kent, and again obtained a compleat victory, upon which they over-run the country; and the following year
march-

marched to Canterbury, Rochester, and London* where they committed the most monstrous acts of barbarity. The Danes now never failed to visit England once a year, merely for the sake of plunder; for they had not yet any thoughts of making a settlement in the kingdom; but tho' they had frequently very ill success, and were several times totally routed, yet they were far from being discouraged; for in 852 they sailed up the Thames with 350 ships, plundered Canterbury, London, and many other towns, but at last both armies met at Okely in Surry, where, after a most bloody battle, the English proved victorious. As this was the greatest victory the English had ever gained, it procured Ethelwulf some respite, who made use of this opportunity to go to Rome, with his younger son Alfred. Upon his return he married Judith the daughter of Charles the Bald, King of France, and to avoid a civil war, which was ready to break out in favour of his eldest son Ethelbald, he gave that Prince a part of his kingdom. He died in 858, and left Kent, Suffex, Surry, and Essex, to his second son Ethelbert.

ETHEL BALD succeeded his father in 857. The only remarkable particular in this reign,

* London is supposed to have been built in the reign of the Emperor Claudius, and about fifty years after the birth of our Saviour, for no mention is made of it in the time of Julius Cæsar. Tacitus tells us that in Nero's reign it was a famous trading town. Annal. L. 14. C. 33. In the year 340 the walls were built in an oblong space three miles in compass by Constantine the Great.

was his marrying his father's widow. Dying in 860, he was succeeded by his brother Ethelbert.

ETHELBERT imitated the virtues of his ancestors, but was unable to free his country from the Danes, and after a reign of about five years died in 866.

EHELRED I. in pursuance of his father's will, succeeded his brother Ethelbert, tho' that Prince left two sons. His reign was short, and from his coronation to his death he was engaged in a continual conflict with the Danes, who now settled in England, committed the most dreadful ravages, and carried all before them. This Prince was however remarkable for his valour, justice, prudence, and piety. He died in 871.

A L F R E D the Great succeeded his brother Ethelred, tho' that Prince left several children, His virtues and distinguished bravery had been shewn in his brother's life time, and now endeared him to his subjects. He was crowned in 871, when the Danes were in the very heart of his dominions, and all the sea ports were filled with their fleets. After several battles, with various success, Alfred was obliged to dismiss his very attendants, and having committed his wife and children to the care of some trusty subjects, disguised himself, and lived concealed in the little island of Athelney in Somersetshire. At length the Danes finding that they had no enemies to oppose them, grew negligent. This invited

invited Alfred's friends to repair to their Prince, who resolving to be satisfied, boldly entered the Danish camp in the disguise of a musician, and even staid there several days: then returning to his friends, his troops were secretly assembled, and he came up with, attacked, and routed the Danes with incredible slaughter. Those who escaped fled to a castle, but were soon compelled to submit. Alfred agreed to let them depart, on condition that their leader Guthrun should embrace Christianity: this they readily complied with, and Alfred gave Guthrun the government of East-Anglia in Essex. Alfred now increased his navy, grew formidable at sea, and beat many of the Danish fleets. He fortified his kingdom with walled towns and castles, propagated the civil arts, encouraged polite learning, made many excellent laws, instituted juries, and established the plan of a civil constitution in England; and in his reign, justice was so strictly observed, that we are told bracelets of gold, being hung in the highways over night, would be found safe in the morning. He was an excellent scholar, he wrote books for the instruction of his people, and was one of the greatest, wisest, and most pious Princes upon earth. He reigned near 30 years, and died in the year 900.

EDWARD the elder succeeded his father Alfred in the year 900. He was not equal to his father in learning, tho' he possessed most of his virtues, and exceeded him in power and extent of dominion. He carried on a continual war with the Danes, and they, together with the Scotch and Welsh, were obliged either to submit to his allegiance,

26 ATHELSTAN, EDMUND. EDRED.

giance, or to court his friendship. This great Prince died in 925, after a reign of about 24 years.

ATHELSTAN, the son of Edward and Egwinna, a shepherd's daughter, succeeded his father Edward; Ethelward the legitimate Prince being dead, and Edmund the younger being under age. He defeated the Danes in many engagements, maintained a large fleet at sea; added several excellent laws to those of Alfred his grandfather; caused the Holy Scriptures to be translated into the Saxon language; defeated the Scotch and Welsh, and was the first King of England who had no subordinate King under him. He died without issue in 941, in the 16th year of his reign.

EDMUND I. succeeded his brother Athelstan in 941, in the 18th year of his age. He was the first who made a law for punishing robbery with death. He was a brave and successful Prince, but was assassinated at a feast, (by a robber whom he had formerly banished,) in 946.

EDRED succeeded his brother Edmund, tho' that Prince left two sons behind him; and was crowned by the unanimous consent of the nobility and clergy. He subdued the Northumbrian Danes who had revolted, and died in 955.

EDWIN or EDWY, the elder son of Edmund, succeeded his uncle Edred, tho' that Prince had issue living at his death. He was but 14 years of age when he ascended the throne, and from his graceful person was surnamed the Fair.

Dun-

Dunstan, whom this Prince had cherished in his bosom, inflamed the people against their sovereign, raised an open rebellion, and obliged him to surrender Mercia and Northumberland to his brother Edgar, which threw him into an excess of melancholy that occasioned his death, after he had reigned four years and some months.

EDGAR *the Peaceable*, succeeded his brother Edwin, as Sovereign of all England, in 959. He governed his kingdom so well in peace, that his reign was undisturbed by war, for his navy intimidated foreigners from making invasions, and he bridled the Danes and Scots by a strong standing army. He abolished the pecuniary tribute of the Welsh, and, in order to destroy the wolves with which the kingdom was then much infested, substituted in its room an annual tribute of 300 wolves heads. He died in 975, and was canonized by the Monks for building upwards of 40 monasteries.

EDWARD II. the Martyr, succeeded his father Edgar, when only 14 years of age, in 976, but was three years after deprived both of his crown and life, by Elfrida his mother-in-law, who caused him to be stabbed in the back, as he was without attendants, drinking a cup of wine to her health at the gate of Corfe castle in the isle of Purbeck in Dorsetshire, where she kept her court. His body was at first thrown into a well, but was afterwards buried at Shaftsbury, where the miracles said to be performed at his tomb occasioned his being canonized.

ETHELRED II. the son of Edgar and Elfrida, succeeded Edward in 979, when but 12 years of age. He had none of the spirit and generosity of his ancestors. He neglected his navy, and suffered the Danes to commit dreadful havock in his kingdom; and instead of opposing them, shamefully purchased a peace, which only served to allure others.—The Danes renewed their depredations, and Sweyn, King of Denmark, and Onlaf, King of Norway, landed to partake of the spoil, when Ethelred again had recourse to money instead of arms. Onlaf was converted to Christianity, but Sweyn continued the scourge of England, which he did not leave 'till he had obtained another considerable sum from the King, and then some of the Danes continuing in England, behaved with such insolence, that Ethelred ordered a general massacre of those lawless ruffians, which was executed with such secrecy and cruelty, that neither age nor sex was spared. But this only served to provoke their countrymen to renew their invasions. Sweyn reduced all the kingdom, except London; but was murdered by his own subjects as a tyrant; on which Ethelred, who had fled to Normandy, returned with his family, and died in 1016, after an inglorious reign of 37 years.

EDMUND II. surnamed *Ironside*, succeeded his father Ethelred II. in 1016. He revived the English courage, and bravely opposed the Danes under Canute the son of Sweyn. After several victories, he endeavoured to terminate the war by a single combat between himself and Canute; they

they valiantly engaged in the fight of both armies, when the latter, finding himself too weak, desired a parley, and offered to divide the kingdom between them, which was readily accepted; but Edmund being assassinated the same year, Canute became absolute Monarch of all England.



S E C T. I.

The D A N I S H L I N E.

CANUTE the Great, the first Danish King of England, was crowned in 1017, and married Emma, King Ethelred's widow; he confirmed the Saxon laws, to which he subjected the Danes; administered justice with great impartiality; pursued the most popular measures,* and died in 1036, in the 19th year of his reign.

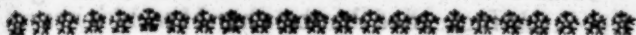
HAROLD I. the son of Canute, and the second Danish King of England, was for his extraordinary swiftness surnamed Harefoot, and was crowned King of England in 1036, while his elder brother Sweyn was made King of Denmark.

* In order to expose the flattery of sordid Parasites who attributed something of divinity to him, he seated himself on the sea shore when the tide was coming in, and, with a loud voice, commanded the waters not to wet his feet; but the waves rolling in as usual, and beating upon him, *You may see*, says he to the Spectators, *you may by this see what stuff we are. Oh how inconsiderable is the power of earthly Kings!*

He behaved with great cruelty, was detested as a tyrant, and died in the third year of his reign.

HARDICANUTE, the third Danish King of England, succeeded his brother Harold in 1039, and was a wretch of worse qualities even than his brother, whose body he caused to be dug out of his grave and thrown into the Thames. He imposed an exorbitant tax on the English of 32,147 *l.* to be raised in the same manner as the tax called Dane-Gelt, and plunder'd and burnt Worcester for refusing to pay their part of it. This wretch, however, did not exercise his cruelties long, for in the third year of his reign, *anno* 1041, he died at a banquet at Lambeth, either by poison, or excess of eating or drinking, to the universal joy of the English. Most English historians agree, that as the government of the Danes was now grown obnoxious to the people, the chief men in the kingdom met and agreed that the crown should never more be conferred to any one of the Danish race; and that any person who should dare even to propose it, should be deemed an enemy to his country, a traitor to the state, and guilty of high treason. But this is a passage the most difficult to be reconciled of any in the English history; for we are at a loss to know how the English could obtain so much power, when the kingdom was full of Danes. Some of the English historians say indeed, that they were expelled, but they don't tell us how, nor do they say there was any war or commotion on that occasion. The Danish historians, to clear up this difficulty, affirm that all their countrymen in England

England were massacred in one night; but this is equally improbable; nay, it will appear impossible, if we consider what a number of Danes must be in the kingdom at that time.



S E C T. II.

The Restoration of the SAXON LINE.

EDWARD III. surnamed *the Confessor*, was the son of King Ethelred, and ascended the throne in 1041. The conduct of the last Prince and his brother Harold rendered the Danish race so universally hated, that he was elected by the general concurrence both of the nobles and people; he was however as unwarlike as his father. He began his reign with lowering the taxes; but afterwards displeased the people by his fondness of the Normans, who had given him a retreat while this country was possessed by the Danes; and by inviting William Duke of Normandy into England, whom he carried to all the strong places in the kingdom, and upon every occasion shewed greater partiality to the Normans than to his own subjects. He was guilty of great cruelty to his mother and queen: He built Westminster-abbey; was governed by the priests, and is said to have been the first King of England who cured the king's evil by the touch; but this miraculous power is also said to have been invested in Clovis, the first Christian King of France. He however reduced the West Saxon, Mercian, and Danish laws into one body, and made them the common law of England. He died

died in 1065, was canonized, and great devotion was paid to his shrine.

HAROLD II. the son of Godwin, Earl of Kent, succeeded Edward the Confessor, tho' Edgar Atheling, that Prince's nephew, was nearest allied to the crown. He began his reign with many popular actions; created young Edgar Earl of Oxford, and won the love of his subjects. He defeated his eldest brother Tosti, who obtained assistance from Norway, and both Tosti and Harold, King of Norway, were slain in battle, but he was soon after himself defeated and slain by William the Bastard, Duke of Normandy. In that battle, it is said, no less than 60,000 English were slain. Thus ended the Saxon government, after its having continued 580 years. On which, the ancient inhabitants of the island retired into Wales, where they preferred barren mountains, with the possession of liberty, to the most fertile plains of England,



I. WILLIAM *the* CONQUEROR,
from 1066 to 1087.



WILLIAM, a spurious branch of Rollo's race,
 From Norman's Duke, to England's King we
 trace;

He conquer'd Saxon HAROLD, seiz'd the throne;
 Was brave, but proud, and partial to his own.

CHAP. V.

*From the NORMAN CONQUEST in 1066, to the
Reign of HENRY IV. in 1399.*

WILLIAM I. *commonly called The CONQUEROR.*

HIS C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

Alexander II. 1061
Gregory VII. 1073
Victor III. 1086

Emperors of the East.

Constantine XII. 1059
Romanus IV. 1068
Michael VII. 1071
Nicephorus I. 1078
Alexis I. 1081

Emperor of the West.

Henry IV. 1056

King of France.

Philip I. 1060

Kings of Scotland.

Malcolm III. 1059

Donald VIII. 1068

Duncan usurp'd the throne
for 18 months, but after-
wards *Donald* was re-
stored.

THIS Prince was the natural son of Robert VI. Duke of Normandy, by Aletta, a furrier's daughter. Harold being slain in battle, William, who was about 52 years of age, marched directly to London, where he claimed the crown, by the testament of King Edward the Confessor, and the gates were opened to receive him. It is remarkable that on his way to that city, he was met by a large body of the *Men of Kent*, each with a bough, or limb of a tree, in his hand. This army, which had the appearance of a moving wood, boldly demanded the preserva-
tion

tion of their liberties, and let the Conqueror know that they were resolved rather to die than to part with their laws, or to live in bondage ; as will appear by the following Speech made to him by Stigand the Archbishop, who was at their head.

“ You are accosted, illustrious General, by the
 “ men of Kent, who are ready to submit to your
 “ Government, provided you shall make proper
 “ concessions to their most equitable demands ;
 “ being such sort of men as are determined to
 “ retain that liberty they have received from
 “ their ancestors, together with the laws and
 “ customs of their country ; neither will they be
 “ reduced to a state of servitude, which they
 “ never experienced, or endure a new Legisla-
 “ ture ; for they can bear with a regal, but not
 “ a tyrannical authority.

“ With their liberty therefore unassailed, and
 “ their ancient laws and customs reserved to
 “ them, receive the *Men of Kent*, not as a parcel
 “ of *slaves*, but as *subjects* attached to you in
 “ loyalty and love.

“ But if you shall attempt to deprive them of
 “ their freedom and the immunity of their laws,
 “ you shall deprive them of their lives also ; for
 “ they had rather engage with you in a deter-
 “ mined battle, and fall under *certain enemies*,
 “ than in a court of justice under *uncertain*
 “ *laws*.

“ For though the rest of the English can suf-
 “ fer slavery, *to be free* is the property of the
 “ *Men of Kent*.”

William.

William, struck with the reasonableness of this address, as well as with the boldness and intrepidity of the people, wisely granted their demands, and suffered them to retain their ancient customs.

Upon his coronation at Westminster he was sworn to govern by the laws of the realm, and though he introduced some new forms in their administration and execution, and also some of the Norman laws, yet he preserved to the English their two fundamental laws; their trials by juries, and the borough-law. He appointed justices to preserve the peace in every county, as had been practised in the Saxon reigns, and instituted the Courts of Chancery and Exchequer; but at the same time disarmed his English subjects, and forbid their having any lights in their houses after eight o'clock at night, when a bell was rung called *Curfew* or *cover fire*, at the sound of which all were obliged to put out their fires and candles. He bridled all England by strong forts garrisoned by Normans, and took every occasion of confiscating the estates of Englishmen, which he bestowed on his followers. He conquered several powers who invaded England; obliged the Scots to preserve the peace they had broken; compelled the Welsh to pay him tribute; refused himself to pay homage to the See of Rome; built the Tower of London, and had all public acts made in the Norman tongue. He oppressed the people by taxes; and in particular revived the odious tax of *Dane-gelt*, abolished by the Confessor; he made very severe game laws, and is said to have been so fond of hunting, that he depopulated the country for about 30 miles in compass, for inclosing

inclosing the New Forest in Hampshire, and made a law, by which every man who killed a deer, was to have his eyes put out. He caused all England to be surveyed and rated, and the men numbered in a work called the Doomsday-Book, which is still in being.

This King's reign was frequently disturbed by insurrections, all which however he soon suppressed, either by force or by art; and strengthened himself and his friends, by confiscating the estates of those whom he found in rebellion, and giving them to his Norman and other followers; who, being thus rewarded, (and having also the best places at court conferr'd upon them) became more considerable in England than the English themselves, and laid the foundation of many of those noble families, which afterwards flourished in this kingdom.

To curb the insolence of the French, who had invaded Normandy, and after that to reduce his son Robert, who appeared there in arms against him, he carried over with him an English army, and left his own troops to preserve the peace at home. William in a general engagement had like to have been killed by his son; but Robert when he found that he was engaged with his father, dutifully submitted to him, though he was victorious.

William, having reigned some years in peace, invaded France, and taking Mantes in the month of August 1087, he ordered it to be reduced to ashes; when he approached so near the flames, that the heat of the fire, together with the warmth of the season, threw him into a fever,

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which

which being increased by a fall from his horse, in his return to Roan, he died in a village near that city on the 9th of September following, in the 64th year of his age, after a reign of 52 years in Normandy, and 21 in England, and was buried at Caen.

William was tall, broad set, and of great strength. His passions were violent. He had much wisdom, but more dissimulation; great wealth, but greater avarice; was fond of fame, and severe to his opponents in war, but behaved with humility to the church. By his obtaining the crown, the English lost the true line of the Saxon Monarchs, and the flower of the nobility, but they gained strength at home, and dominion abroad.

Notwithstanding this King play'd the tyrant in some part of his reign, yet it evidently appears, that he never considered himself as a Conqueror: This title, therefore, must have been given him by the flattery of succeeding ages.

Many accidents happened in this reign, which several writers have represented as judgments. Thus Richard, the King's second son, was killed in the life-time of his father by a stag in the New-Forest. There was a great fire in London which consumed St. Paul's church. There is also said to have been a mighty flood, which did incredible damage; a great frost, which lasted from October to April; and towards the end of his reign a considerable earthquake, which happened on Christmas-day.

WILLIAM the SECOND,
from 1087 to 1100.



WILLIAM the Second won but little fame,
 He built that Hall, which Westminster we name;
 Was valiant, rash, intemperate and vain,
 And was by Tyrrel in New-Forest slain.

HIS COTEMPORARIES.

P O P E S.		Emperor of the West.	
<i>Victor III.</i>	1086	<i>Henry IV.</i>	1056
<i>Urban II.</i>	1088	King of France.	
<i>Paschal II.</i>	1099	<i>Philip I.</i>	1060
Emperor of the East.		King of Scotland.	
<i>Alexis I.</i>	1081	<i>Donald VIII.</i>	1068

WILLIAM, the second surviving son of William the Conqueror, was from the colour of his hair surnamed Rufus or Red, and succeeded his father in 1088, at which time his elder brother Robert succeeded to the Duchy of Normandy. He was 30 years of age when he ascended the throne; but though he had great bravery, he had few of the other qualifications necessary to constitute a good Prince. Robert resolved to assert his right of primogeniture to the crown of England, and several of the Norman nobility espoused his cause; but William put an end to the rebellion by defeating a body of troops in Kent, and promising to restore the liberties of the English. William built a powerful fleet, raised a numerous army, corrupted the Norman governors, sheathed the sword of the French King by a present of gold, and obliged his brother to conclude a peace, by which several places in Normandy were put into William's possession. The two brothers then made war on their younger brother Henry, whom they besieged in Mount St. Michael, where William had almost lost his life; for one morning as he was riding out unattended, he fell in with a party of Henry's soldiers, and he endeavoured to force his way through them, but was dismounted, and

and a soldier was going to dispatch him, when he called out, "Hold, fellow, I am the King of England." On this the man, dropping his sword, raised the monarch from the ground and received from him the honour of knighthood, with other marks of his royal favour. The brothers were soon brought to a reconciliation, and William turn'd his arms against Scotland, and defeated the army of their King Malcolm, that Prince and his son being just before killed in an ambush laid by Mowbray the Governor of Northumberland. He afterwards carried on a war with the Welsh, in which Rees King of Wales was slain. Soon after Robert de Mowbray, who had done the King signal service by his victory over the Scots, finding that the King had not the gratitude to reward him, joined with several other noblemen to set the crown on the head of Stephen, grandson to William the Conqueror: upon which the King marched into Yorkshire, reduced Bamborough castle, took Mowbray prisoner, and put an end to the rebellion. About this time the Crusade was first undertaken for the recovery of the Holy-Land out of the hands of the Saracens. Robert Duke of Normandy mortgaged his Dutchy to his brother William for 10,000 marks of silver, to enable him to set out upon that expedition; for the advancement of which sum William oppressed his subjects, and on his brother's departure took possession of Normandy.

At length, as William was hunting in the New Forest, he was slain with an arrow, shot by Walter Tyrrel, his particular favourite, who aiming at a deer struck the King full in the breast,

breast, and he immediately expired, on the 2d of August in the year 1100, aged 44, after a reign of 13 years, and was conveyed to Winchester in a collier's cart.

This Prince was of a middle stature, but very fat; his hair was inclining to red, and he had a ruddy countenance. He had most of the vices, with few of the virtues of his father: He was brave *, but had little learning. He was the first King of England who punished the offences of the priests. He disregarded the Pope, and overawed the clergy; it may therefore be reasonably supposed that the Monks have not represented his character with impartiality. He was usually a strict observer of his word; and, tho' he was reputed covetous, he built London bridge † and Westminster-Hall. He plundered many monasteries, and endow'd several hospitals.

In the 4th year of this Prince's reign, 600 houses in London, with the roof of Bow-church in Cheapside, were blown down by a tempest; and about the tenth year of his reign, the Earldom of Godwin, in the east part of Kent, was overflowed by the sea, and those banks formed, which are now called Godwin's sands.

* This king's spirit was so great, that, when the Earl De la Flesche (whom he had taken prisoner at Mans) told him, *that he had no reason to glory in an advantage which he had gained by surprise, and that if he was again at liberty, he would let him see it would not be so easy to vanquish him another time*; the King smiled, gave him his liberty, and bid him *do his worst*.

• London bridge, which was originally built of wood, had been demolished by a great flood; William the Second built another with wood, which was burnt in the reign of King Stephen and was then rebuilt with stone.

III. HENRY *the* FIRST, *from 1100 to 1135.*



Learn'd and polite, the Conqueror's youngest son
 By wisdom kept the crown his wiles had won;
 Brave, handsome, sober, to his subjects kind,
 Yet faithless, covetous, to lust inclin'd.

HIS C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.		Emperors of the West.	
<i>Paschal II.</i>	1099	<i>Henry IV.</i>	1056
<i>Gelasius II.</i>	1118	<i>Henry V.</i>	1106
<i>Calistus II.</i>	1119	<i>Lotharius II.</i>	1123
<i>Honorius II.</i>	1124	Kings of France.	
<i>Innocent II.</i>	1130	<i>Philip I.</i>	1060
		<i>Lewis VI.</i>	1108
Emperors of the East.		Kings of Scotland.	
<i>Alexis I.</i>	1081	<i>Donald VIII.</i>	1068
<i>John Comminus</i>	1118	<i>Edgar</i>	1108
		<i>Alexander</i>	1117
		<i>David</i>	1134

THIS Prince, who was the youngest son of William the Conqueror, was, on account of his great learning, surnamed Beauclerc. He was born at Selby in Yorkshire in 1070, and the English looking upon him as their natural Prince raised him to the throne in 1100, though his eldest brother Robert was living, but he was engaged in the Holy-Land. Henry was at that time 30 years of age, and had before shewn himself a politic and brave Prince. He was no sooner seated on the throne, than he began to mitigate the rigour of the laws; restored those of Edward the Confessor with such amendments as had been made by William the Conqueror; abolished the Curfew, confirmed the inheritance of land, the safety of wards, and the right of Dower; granted his subjects the privilege of disposing of their effects by will, prohibited the use of bad money, and forgave the debts of the crown; preferred learned and pious men in the church, removed the vicious and ignorant, and, in short, took

all possible measures to gain the affections of his people. About this time Robert returning from Jerusalem, Henry endeavoured to secure himself on the throne by marrying the Princess Matilda, daughter to Malcolm King of Scotland by Margaret the sister of Edgar Atheling, by which marriage the Norman and Saxon lines were united, and consequently a stronger affinity cemented between his English and Norman subjects, who now began to drop their national distinctions, and to consider themselves as one and the same people.

Duke Robert, however, being determined to revive his claim, landed at Portsmouth in 1102; but when both armies were ready to engage, a treaty was proposed to save the effusion of blood, and it was agreed that Henry should retain his kingdom, relinquish to Robert the possession of Normandy, and pay him 3000 marks a year: it was further stipulated, that if one of the brothers died without children, the other should succeed him in his dominions. Robert afterwards being disturbed by a formidable insurrection, and having deprived himself of all Normandy, except the city of Roan, by mortgaging it to pay his debts, applied to his brother for assistance, on which Henry levied an army, passed into Normandy, seized several cities, and on his return to England, was followed by his brother, as a suppliant to a conqueror for mercy; but Henry was deaf to all his intreaties, on which Robert returned, and obtained the assistance of France and some of the neighbouring Princes; but Henry going with an army to Normandy to oppose him, totally defeated the allies; took the Duke

Duke himself prisoner; seized upon his dominions, and confined him in Cardiff castle in Wales. After this time Henry was alternately engaged in a war with the Welch* and Normans, assisted by the French, with various success, 'till at last a peace was concluded upon equitable terms. Upon which Henry set sail from Barfleur, and returned to England in a kind of naval triumph: But this tide of joy quickly subsided; for his only son William, and the Countess of Perche, his natural daughter, who staid after him, in their return were unfortunately cast away and drowned, which gave Henry such deep affliction, that according to some historians he was never after seen to laugh. The troubles in Normandy were afterwards revived; but at last Henry found himself entirely at peace, and was freed from every competitor in power, by the death of his brother Robert, who, after a confinement of 27 years, and the most severe and cruel treatment, died in prison, and his death was soon followed by that of Henry, who fell ill by eating to excess of some lampreys, at his castle of Lyon near Roan, which carried him off in seven days. He died on the first of December 1135, in the 68th year of his age, and the 36th

* To guard his subjects from the incursions of the Welch, this prince endeavoured to establish on their frontiers a colony of Flemmings, but both they and the Normans were beaten and plundered by the Welch, under the command of Cadwallader and Owen Guineth, sons to Grifflith ap Conan the prince of North Wales, who had courage sufficient to have restored the British name to its former glory, and would probably have shaken off the Norman fetters entirely, had not the prince of South Wales withdrawn his troops, and civil dissensions put a stop to their victorious arms,

of his reign; and his body being embalmed and wrapped in the hides of oxen, was buried at Reading, in a monastery of his own founding. The Empress Maud was his only legitimate child then living, tho' he had twelve natural children.

Henry was very learned, and had so great a regard for the sciences, that he built a palace at Oxford, whither he often retired to enjoy the benefit of conversing with the studious. He had black hair, was of a middling stature, had a handsome person, and an engaging deportment; but these accomplishments were sullied by his cruelty, avarice, and inordinate love of women. However, the charter granted by him in the beginning of his reign endeared his memory to his people; as arbitrary power was now bounded by legal right, and as the hand of tyranny was not too strong to be checked by the arm of freedom.

In his reign a great part of Flanders was overflowed, which brought many Flemmings into England. Winchester, Gloucester, and Worcester were burnt. The Thames, Medway, and Trent were almost dried up. In the 16th year of his reign a comet appeared, and in the 33d London was burnt from Westcheap to Aldgate, and the next year a great earthquake happened in England.

The present measure of an English yard was made by this King's order from the length of his own arm.

IV. STEPHEN,

from 1135 to 1154.



Valiant and prudent, but of dubious right,
Which oft, with various chance, was try'd, in
fight;

At length, his own son dead, this Prince agreed,
That HENRY, son of Maud, should him succeed.

HIS COTEMPORARIES.

POPE S.

<i>Innocent II.</i>	1130
<i>Celestin II.</i>	1134
<i>Lucius II.</i>	1144
<i>Eugenius III.</i>	1145
<i>Anastas IV.</i>	1153
<i>Adrian V.</i>	1154

Emperors of the East.

<i>John Comninus</i>	1118
<i>Emanuel Comninus</i>	1143

Emperors of the West.

<i>Lotharius II.</i>	1125
<i>Conrad III.</i>	1138
<i>Frederick I.</i>	1152

Kings of France.

<i>Lewis VI.</i>	1108
<i>Lewis VII.</i>	1137

King of Scotland.

<i>David</i>	1134
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THE Norman government, which had subsisted 69 years in England, was now extinct. The Empress Maud or Matilda succeeded her father in his duchy of Normandy; but tho' her right to the crown of England had been recognized in parliament, Stephen Earl of Blois, the third son of the Earl of Blois, by Adela, daughter to William the Conqueror, got possession of the throne, and was crowned on the 22d of December in 1135. He was one of the best soldiers in Europe, and immediately endeavoured to insinuate himself into the affections of the English. He convened a general assembly at Oxford, where he signed a Charter, by which he confirmed the rights of the Church, abolished the forest laws, and revived the favourite laws of Edward the Confessor. He suffered the Nobles to fortify their castles and build new ones, by which means there were above 1000 places of defence in the kingdom, which became so many

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checks

checks upon the Royal Prerogative ; but the revolt of the Earl of Devonshire soon made Stephen sensible of his error in allowing the nobility those places of defence. He besieged that Earl in Exeter, which he reduced, and then banished him. At this time the Welch made an irruption on the frontiers, while David, King of Scotland, ravaged the northern counties, under the pretence of revenging the injustice done to the Empress his neice ; but a peace was concluded between Stephen and David, by which the latter obtained Carlisle, and his son Prince Henry the Earldom of Huntingdon.

Stephen soon after fell ill of a lethargy, and the Normans imagining he was dead, invited Theobald his elder brother to seize their dutchy ; but Stephen recovering, went to Normandy, expelled his brother, and having concluded an offensive treaty with the French King, resign'd Normandy to his eldest son Eustace Earl of Bologne ; after which he returned to England, where many of the nobles had revolted ; but as they were unable to take the field, and solely trusted to their strong fortresses, Stephen reduced them one by one ; while his troops in Northumberland defeated the Scots, who came to the assistance of the Barons ; and then invading Scotland, he compelled King David to conclude a peace. Soon after, the insolence of the clergy obliged him to seize the castles belonging to the bishops of Salisbury, Lincoln, and Ely. The spiritual power however could not bear to be deprived of its temporalities : Various methods were taken to alienate the affections of the people from the King.

King. The spirit of rebellion prevailed, and the Empress Maud seized this opportunity of asserting in person a right to the crown. The whole kingdom was now divided and torn by all the rage of civil war. The King however faced the storm with great fortitude; and declared, that, " Since they had chosen him for their monarch, he would never be called an abdicated King." He besieged the Empress in Wallingford; pursued her to Lincoln, and gave battle to the Earl of Gloucester before that city, when the King was taken prisoner, after he had defended himself with astonishing bravery; for he had broke his battle-axe and sword, and was knocked down on his knees with a stone before he could be taken. He was then confined in Bristol castle, where he was ignominiously loaded with irons.

Maud was now every where acknowledged Sovereign, but behaved with great haughtiness; King Stephen's consort intreated her with the utmost humility to set her husband at liberty; promising that he should resign his crown and end his days in a monastery: but she dismissed her with such an air of contempt, that the late Queen, recovering fresh strength and resolution from her resentment, raised a large body of forces; and Maud, refusing to mitigate the severity of the Norman laws, a revolt ensued, and the King was set at liberty in order to pursue the war. The bishop of Winchester, who was the Pope's legate and the King's brother, had been the principal cause of this rebellion, and had excommunicated all Stephen's adherents; but he now excommunicated all the adherents to Maud,

Maud, who after many conflicts in different parts of the county were obliged to retire to Normandy; however the young Prince Henry her son, obtaining assistance from France, returned to England; but when both Princes were preparing for battle, a truce was agreed upon, and it was stipulated that the King should enjoy the crown during life, and that after his decease Henry should succeed to the throne. This treaty being signed, the king adopted the young Duke, who paid him the respect due to a father, while William the King's son was obliged to do homage to Henry. Stephen was now desirous of healing the miseries which the kingdom had suffered, but was prevented by his death. He died on the 25th of October of the colic and piles at Canterbury, (about eleven months after he had concluded the treaty with Henry,) in the 50th year of his age, and the 19th of his reign, and was buried in the abbey of Feversham in Kent.

Stephen had many amiable qualities as a man, and many virtues as a King, and was particularly remarkable for his valour, clemency, and generosity.

This reign was distinguished by the introduction of the Canon Law into England. In 1136 there was a great fire in London, and the next year the city of York was burnt to the ground. In the third year of his reign Rochester was burnt to the ground, and 39 churches, which it then contained, were consumed.

V. HENRY *the* SECOND,
from 1154 to 1189.



First of Plantagenets, now HENRY reigns,
Fam'd for his pow'r, his lust, and large domains:
A priest imperious vex'd him all his life,
His sons prov'd rebels, and a shrew his wife.

His C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.		Emperors of the West.	
<i>Adrian IV.</i>	1154	<i>Frederick I.</i>	1152
<i>Alexander III.</i>	1154		
<i>Lucius III.</i>	1181	King of France.	
<i>Urban III.</i>	1185		
<i>Gregory VIII.</i>	1187	<i>Lewis VIII.</i>	1137
<i>Clement III.</i>	1188	<i>Philip II.</i>	1180
Emperors of the East.		Kings of Scotland.	
<i>Emanuel Com.</i>	1143		
<i>Alexis II.</i>	1180	<i>David</i>	1134
<i>Andronicus I.</i>	1183	<i>Malcolm IV.</i>	1163
<i>Isaac II.</i>	1185	<i>William</i>	1165

HENRY PLANTAGENET, the son of the Empress Maud, by Geoffrey Earl of Anjou, was crowned in 1154, in the 23d year of his age. The English beheld with great satisfaction a Prince descended by his mother's side from their ancient Saxon Kings, while the Normans were no less pleased at finding a descendant of Rollo invested with such additional power. Henry began his reign with many prudent measures; he sent away the foreign troops employed by his predecessors; demolished the castles erected in the former reign; chose a council of the ablest men in the kingdom; annulled the exorbitant grants made by former Kings, revived the laws of Edward the Confessor, and confirmed the Charter made by Henry I. his grand-father.

Having

Having settled the peace of England he returned to Normandy, and paid homage to the King of France for the provinces he possessed in that kingdom. His father Geoffrey Earl of Anjou had left Anjou, Touraine, and Maine, to Geoffrey his second son, on Henry's obtaining possession of Normandy; and the Earldom of Mortagne to William his third son. But tho' Henry had sworn to pay obedience to this will, he now declared it void; maintained that his father could not deprive his first-born of the patrimony he received from his ancestors, and having obtained a dispensation from his oath of Pope Adrian IV. he invaded Anjou, drove his brother out of the country, and upon his return to England, Malcolm King of Scotland resigned to him Carlisle, Newcastle, and Bamborough castle, and the next year paid him homage at Chester. In 1159 Henry visited the young King of France, and concluded a marriage between his eldest son and Margaret the daughter of the French King, tho' the young Prince was only five years of age, and the Princess but six months old. The Duke of Britany also gave his daughter Constance in marriage to Geoffrey, another of Henry's sons, who was then in his cradle.

Henry now laid claim to Thoulouse in right of his Queen, which Earldom was then possessed by Raymond, Count of St. Giles, to whose father it had been mortgaged. Henry offered to discharge the mortgage, which the Count would not accept, and this occasioned a war, in which the Count was assisted by the King of France. This contest being at length determined, the Count submitted to do homage
for

for Thoulouse, and to pay Henry a yearly acknowledgment of 100 marks of silver.

Henry having now settled affairs abroad, was disturbed at home by the arrogance of Thomas Becket, whom he had raised from a mean degree to the see of Canterbury and the dignity of High Chancellor. The dispute ran so high, that the Archbishop was obliged to fly the kingdom. After a long contest, which gave Henry great trouble, a reconciliation was brought about by the mediation of the Pope and the King of France, but not without great difficulty and delay. Becket, when he was pleading his cause, said, *he was ready to pay obedience to his Sovereign, in all things saving the Honour of God*: to which Henry, who looked on this seeming compliance, as artful and evasive, made the following reply: *There have been Kings in ENGLAND not so powerful as I am, and Archbishops that have been great and holy men; let him pay me the same regard that the greatest of his predecessors paid to the least of mine, and I will be satisfied.* The archbishop rejected this offer; the affair, however, being at length determined, Becket returned to England, and raised such disturbances, that four knights, thinking to please the King, murdered him in his Cathedral of Canterbury. This prelate was afterwards honoured with the title of a Martyr, and canonized by the name of St. Thomas of Canterbury. His shrine was enriched with a great quantity of precious stones, and votaries resorted to it from all parts of Christendom. The King, who was then in France, on the news of Becket's death, returned to England.

Henry sailed with a numerous fleet to Ireland,
and

and landing at Waterford on the 18th of October 1172, all the Irish Princes paid him a visit, and strove who should first swear allegiance to him; by which means he became master of that kingdom, without spilling a drop of blood; * but this success was followed by a most shameful disgrace; for the same year the Pope's legate, who was sent to examine into the murder of Becket, prevailed on the king to do penance by going barefoot three miles to that Prelate's shrine, by which his feet were cut with the stones, and the ground stained with his blood; and to permit himself to be scourged by the Augustine Monks, who gave him fourscore lashes on his naked back.

Henry, who was the greatest Monarch in Europe, soon became extremely unhappy from the vexations he met with in his own family: Eleanor his Queen, being jealous of Rosamond, the Lord Clifford's daughter, who was the King's mistress, and whom he kept at Woodstock, in a labyrinth built to secure her from the Queen's rage, found means to dispatch her by poison †;

* Henry, soon after he had obtained Ireland, divided great part of the country among the English nobles and gentlemen, who attended him in the expedition, from whom the principal families in Ireland are descended.

† The corps of fair Rosamond was buried in Godslow church near Oxford, where a monument is erected to her memory, with this Epitaph, which is still to be seen.

*Hic jacet in Tumba, Rosa Mundi, non Rosa munda;
Non redolet, sed olet, quæ redolere solet.*

This tomb doth here inclose
The world's most beauteous rose;
Rose passing sweet ere while,
Now nought but odour vile.

SPEED.

and

and the young Princes his sons longing to be invested with that power, which he had appointed them by his will, and being joined by several of the nobility, and also assisted by the Kings of France and Scotland, raised a great rebellion. King Henry however triumphed over all his enemies, took the King of Scotland prisoner, and became master of the principal places in Guienne, Anjou, Poictou, and Britany, restored the young Princes to favour, and pardoned all the revolvers; but obliged the King of Scotland to pay him homage for his kingdom.

However Richard, his eldest son, again joined with France against him, and was so successful, that they obliged him to accept of a peace upon very disadvantageous terms. Henry was extremely mortified at seeing his power diminished, and this mortification was increased by his discovering that his favourite son John was also conspiring to remove him from the throne. His grief on this occasion caused his death: He fell sick at Chinon in Touraine, and perceiving his end draw near, gave orders for his being carried into the church, where he expired before the altar, on the 6th of July 1189, in the 57th year of his age, and the 35th of his reign. He was stripped by his domestics as soon as his eyes were closed, and left quite naked in the church; but was buried at Fonteveraud in Anjou, pursuant to his own order.

Henry was of a middle stature; his hair was bushy; his eyes, when pleased, had a peculiar sweetness; but when angry, sparkled with fury. He had a Roman nose; had great strength in his arms; but his hands were coarse, and his legs
some-

somewhat deformed : He was a good horseman, and excessively fond of hunting ; but never enforced the forest laws. He was valiant and learned, prudent and polite, generous and of a mild disposition ; among his vices, lust was his predominant passion ; but his concubines were not chargeable to the nation. He raised the power of England, reformed the laws, and governed himself by them.

In his reign lions were first kept in the Tower of London, which custom has ever since been continued. In the 9th year of his reign London-bridge was rebuilt with timber, and three years after there was so remarkable an earthquake, that the church of Lincoln, and several other churches were destroyed by it. Towards the end of his reign, the city of London was paved, and thatching of houses discontinued in that city.



VI. RICHARD *the* FIRST,
from 1189 to 1199.



RICHARD, for boist'rous courage chiefly known,
 Wasted his years in countries not his own ;
 A prisoner long, at last untimely slain,
 England had small advantage from his reign.

HIS C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

<i>Clement III.</i>	1188
<i>Celestine III.</i>	1191
<i>Innocent III.</i>	1193

Emperors of the West.

<i>Frederic I.</i>	1152
<i>Henry VI.</i>	1190
<i>Philip I.</i>	1197

King of France.

Emperors of the East.	<i>Philip II.</i>	1180
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<i>Iaac II.</i>	1185
<i>Alexis III.</i>	1195

King of Scotland.

<i>William</i>	1165
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RICHARD, the eldest son of Henry II. was from his bravery surnamed Cœur de Lion, or Lion-hearted, and was 32 years of age when his father died. He was solemnly inaugurated at Roan in the duchy of Normandy, and was crowned in Westminster-abbey on the 3d of September 1189. On the day of his coronation, the Jews in London flocking to make presents to the new King, the mob fell upon them, and inhumanly robbed and murdered all they met with; plundered their houses, and set them on fire. To appease this tumult, the King was obliged to appear in person, and to cause some of the ringleaders to be executed. This example was however followed in several parts of the kingdom, particularly at York, where 500 Jews, besides women and children, shut themselves up in the castle, and there died by their own hands, rather than submit to the diabolical fury of their persecutors.

Richard had some time before agreed with Philip King of France to go in person to the holy war. He was therefore no sooner on the throne,

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than he raised immense sums for that expedition, and having provided a numerous fleet, passed into France with all his troops, and being joined by the French King, their united force amounted to above 100,000 men. Both armies embarked on board their respective fleets at Marseilles. Richard being driven by contrary winds to the isle of Cyprus, was treated in an inhospitable manner by the people, and particularly by Isaac the King of the island. Upon which Richard landed his troops, took Isaac and his daughter prisoners, loaded the Cyprian King with silver fetters; conquered the whole country, of which he was made King, and afterwards transferred his right to that island to Guy Lusignan, titular King of Jerusalem, in exchange for that empty title. Hence the English Monarchs were for a long time stiled Kings of Jerusalem.

Richard sailed from Cyprus to Palestine, where he joined the French King, and other forces belonging to the Christians, who were then besieging the city of Acre. He attack'd the city vigorously, which soon surrendered; yet, tho' he had been so instrumental in its reduction, the Archduke of Austria placed his flag on a tower he had taken, which so exasperated Richard, that he order'd it to be pull'd down and trampled on; an indignity the Duke afterwards severely resented. Some disputes arising between Richard and Philip, the latter returned to France. Richard however defeated the Saracen army commanded by the great Saladine, and taking advantage of this victory, seized Ascalon, Jop-

pa*, and Cæsarea; but as several other Princes deserted the confederacy, he granted Saladine a truce for three years, by which the Christians were to retain all their possessions in Palestine, but at the same time told him, *he would certainly visit that country again, and try to recover it out of his hands.* SALADINE politely replied, *that if he was obliged to part with this Kingdom, he would sooner give it up to the King of England, than to any monarch upon earth,* but added, (or at least ought to have added) *that it was the duty of a Prince to provide for the safety of his own people;* and this he might well have said, for more than 200,000 Christians were killed before the City of Acre, besides those who fell in the subsequent engagements. A sad instance of enthusiastic ambition!

While Richard was preparing for his departure, he was informed that the government was greatly perplexed at home, on which he resolved to hasten thither as a private gentleman, and having sent his Queen and sister before him, embarked on board a ship, and without staying for his fleet, set sail, but was shipwrecked in the

* Near Joppa, he fell into an ambush of Saracens, as he was sleeping under a tree with only six attendants. He defended himself with incredible valour till four of his party were slain, and himself on the point of being taken or cut in pieces, when William Despereaux, one of his company, cried out in the Saracen language, *I am the King of England;* the soldiers left the real King to have a hand in taking the imaginary one, whose device gave Richard time to escape. Despereaux, being conducted to Saladine, confess'd what he had done to save his master, and the Sultan, charm'd with the fidelity of the Christian soldier, treated him with great respect.

gulf of Venice, where getting on shore, he pursued his journey in disguise, but in passing near Vienna was discovered and seized by Leopold Archduke of Austria, whom he had affronted in the Holy Land, as we have already observed, and who delivered him up to the Emperor Henry VI. and that Prince, contrary to the law of nations, and solely to extort money from him and his subjects, had his royal captive loaded with chains, and tried as a criminal before the German Diet. Richard was kept fifteen months in close confinement, and at length set at liberty, on paying a ransom of 150,000 marks of silver, which was raised with great difficulty by the English, as Prince John, his brother, had usurped the sovereign authority. However, he at length arrived in England, after an absence of four years.

Richard soon suppressed his brother's party; caused the ceremony of his coronation to be repeated; levied a numerous army, and invaded France. The war, which was often interrupted by truces, continued five years with different success*; after which Richard was preparing to return to England, when a gentleman of Limosin, having discovered a treasure upon his estate, the King pretended it belonged to him as Sovereign of Guienne: The gentleman took shelter in the castle of Chaluz, to which the King laid siege, but as he was reconnoitring the walls, he received a wound with an arrow in the shoulder close to the neck, which mortifying, he died

* And at the battle of Blois, Richard took all the Archives of the French kingdom, which Mezerai laments as a great loss to the French historians.

eleven days after, on the 6th of April 1199, in the 42d year of his age, after a reign of nine years and nine months. The castle being taken before the King died, he ordered all the garrison to be hanged, except the man who wounded him, whom he pardoned.

Before he died he appointed by his will his brother John to succeed him in all his dominions, tho' his nephew Arthur Duke of Britany, the son of his brother Geoffrey, had the right of primogeniture, and though he had formerly appointed him his heir.

Richard was tall, fair, and had a graceful and well proportioned person, with prodigious strength of body. His eyes were blue and sparkling, and his hair of a bright yellow, inclining to red.

He was remarkable for his military virtues, but is justly censured for his pride, avarice, and lust. He was an illustrious warrior; but his love of glory made him neglect the happiness of his people.

Richard was the first King who wore three lions passant for his arms, in which he was followed by his successors; and about this time coats of arms became hereditary in families, occasioned by the badges, which the Crusaders painted on their shields or coats of armour. During his reign London was first divided into different corporations, called companies.

In his reign there was a great famine, which lasted three or four years, and was followed by so dreadful a mortality, that the living were scarce sufficient to bury the dead. In this reign Robin Hood, the famous robber, performed his exploits.

VII. JOHN, *from 1199 to 1216.*

JOHN's reign was full of troubles and turmoils,
 From his bad conduct, and from priestly wiles;
 England's great Charter, by the Barons won,
 He gave ;---but to the Pope resign'd his crown.

His C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

Innocent III. 1198*Honorius III.* 1213

Emperors of the East.

Alexis III. 1195*Alexis IV.* 1203*Alexis V.* 1204*Theodorus I.* 1204

Emperors of the West.

Philip I. 1197*Otho IV.* 1208

French Emperors of Constantinople.

Baldwin I. 1204*Henry I.* 1206

King of France.

Philip II. 1180

Kings of Scotland.

William 1165*Alexander* 1214

J O H N, surnamed Lackland, the brother of Richard, ascended the throne without much opposition in 1199, and tho' Arthur had the hereditary right to the crown of England, yet John was elected King, with this condition, previously stipulated, that he should fully restore and establish the rights and privileges of the people; which promise, however, he little regarded after his coronation. He was then 32 years of age, and having also seized the duchy of Normandy, and left Arthur only the possession of some of the provinces enjoyed by the English in France, Constantine, Arthur's mother, finding herself too weak to contend with the intruder, implored the assistance of Philip King of France, who readily took the young Prince into his protection; but though both sides raised considerable forces, no action happened of importance, and John offering advantageous conditions

ditions to Philip, their differences were composed without any regard to the injured Prince.

John now gave a loose to his pleasures, and passing into Normandy, divorced his wife under the pretence of consanguinity, and married Isabel, daughter and heiress to the Count of Angoulesme, who had before been promised to Hugh le Brun Earl of March; on which the last mentioned Prince espoused Arthur's quarrel, and obtained assistance from Philip, King of France. John, who was then in England, hasted over, attacked Arthur and the Earl of March, routed their forces, and took them both prisoners: Soon after which Arthur was either murdered in prison as his friends gave out, or drowned in a river as he was attempting to make his escape from his confinement, or according to others died of grief. His sister Eleanor, who was taken with him, was confined in Bristol castle forty years; and twenty knights of their party were imprisoned in Corf castle, and there starved to death.

The nobility of Britany, impatient to revenge the death of their Duke, and being assisted by the French King, soon subdued the greatest part of Normandy. Philip would have deprived John of all his dominions in France, had not Guy, Duke of Britany, the husband of Constantia, abandoned his party, and gone over to John, who was thus enabled to recover some towns and make head against him; but when a decisive battle was just ready to be fought, the two Kings agreed to a suspension of arms for two years.

John, upon his return to England, invaded Scotland, and after a great slaughter, obliged the

King

King of Scotland to submit ; then passing into Ireland, which had revolted, soon reduced that island ; he next subdued Wales, whence he carried away 28 youths, the sons of the prime nobility, as hostages, and the Welsh rising again, put them all to death. But afterwards returning to France, he was totally defeated by Lewis, the Dauphin, on which patching up a peace, he lasted to England.

John before this had several contests with the Pope, who had excommunicated him, and absolved the people of England from their oath of allegiance, and now sent Pandulph his Nuncio into England, who offered him the Pope's protection, on condition of his taking an oath to obey the Pontiff in all things, and resign his crown into the hands of the Nuncio. To this John consented, repaired to Dover church, and in the presence of the people took off his crown, disrobed himself of all his ensigns of royalty, and laid them at the feet of the Nuncio, who was seated on a throne. After which he signed a charter, whereby he resigned the kingdom of England and the lordship of Ireland to the holy See, and bound himself as a vassal to pay 700 marks annually for England, and 300 for Ireland, and then did homage to the Pope in the person of his Nuncio, who kept the crown and sceptre five days in his possession.

The English barons, who had before frequently remonstrated against the king's arbitrary proceedings, now fired with indignation at his mean-
ness, had recourse to arms, and demanded a re-
establish-

establishment of the laws of Edward the Confessor, and a renewal of the charter of Henry the First: which being refused by the King, they elected Robert Fitzwalter for their General, enter'd London, and besieged him in the Tower. The King complied, when he could no longer resist, and agreed to meet the Barons in Runnemead, or the Mead of Council, between Stains and Windsor; where treaties of this sort had been frequently held by the Saxons; and there John, being unable to obtain supplies from his people, and also too weak to withstand them, granted whatever they desired, and hence arose the famous charter of liberties called Magna Charta, which he was obliged to sign, and the charter of the liberties of the forest, which have been since esteemed the foundation of the English Liberties. The King however did not intend to bind himself with chains of parchment, and though he had ratified these charters with a solemn oath, he raised an army in Flanders, which being brought over, ravaged the whole kingdom; upon this the Barons applied for assistance to the King of France, promising the crown to his son Lewis, if he freed them from John's tyranny. Lewis soon came to their assistance, landed at Sandwich, and took Rochester, while John retired to Winchester, having prevailed on the Pope to excommunicate both the French King and the English Barons; but being deserted by some of his mercenaries, the Dauphin besieged Dover, while the Barons invested Windsor, after which the country was ravaged by both parties, who came to no engagement. At length grief and

fatigue threw the King into a fever, which is said to have been heightened by his eating of peaches and drinking new ale. He died on the 18th of October 1216, in the 51st year of his age, and the 17th of his reign.

King John was moderately tall, somewhat fat, and of a four and angry countenance. He was rapacious in the acquisition of money, and profuse in squandering it; and as he opposed both the Priests and the Barons, was obliged in turn to submit to both.

King John instituted the present forms of civil government in London, and most other cities in the kingdom. He ordained the legal assize of bread. He established the English laws in Ireland, gave the Cinque Ports the privileges they at present enjoy, and was the first who coined sterling money.

In his reign there was a frost, which continued all January, February, and March, and raised the price of corn from one shilling to thirteen shillings and four-pence per quarter. And about the 10th year of his reign London bridge, which was before of wood, was built entirely of stone,

VIII. H E N R Y

VIII. H E N R Y *the* T H I R D,
from 1216 to 1272.



This King chief note in history does gain,
 From civil discords, and the longest reign:
 Fickle and weak, he saw his crown just gone,
 Yet, dying, left it to his warlike son.

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His C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.		<i>Frederic II.</i>	1213
<i>Honorius III.</i>	1216	French Emperors of	
<i>Gregory IX.</i>	1227	Constantinople.	
<i>Celestin IV.</i>	1241		
<i>Innocent IV.</i>	1243	<i>Henry I.</i>	1206
<i>Alexander IV.</i>	1254	<i>Peter II.</i>	1217
<i>Urbain IV.</i>	1261	<i>Rob. de Cour</i>	1221
<i>Clement IV.</i>	1265	<i>Baldwin II.</i>	1237
Emperors of the East.		Kings of France.	
<i>Theodore I.</i>	1204	<i>Philip II.</i>	1180
<i>John III.</i>	1222	<i>Lewis VIII.</i>	1223
<i>Theodore II.</i>	1225	<i>St. Lewis IX.</i>	1226
<i>John IV.</i>	1259	<i>Philip III.</i>	1270
<i>Michael VIII.</i>	1259	Kings of Scotland.	
Emperors of the West.		<i>Alexander II.</i>	1214
<i>Otto IV.</i>	1208	<i>Alexander III.</i>	1249

HENRY of Winchester was but twelve years of age, when the earl of Pembroke had him crowned at Gloucester, on the 28th of October 1216. The usual oath was administered to the young Prince, after which the Legate who was present caused him to do homage to the Holy See. Many of the Barons who had sworn allegiance to the Dauphin joined with Henry in hopes of modelling his youth so as to render him an excellent Prince, and the Pope renewed his excommunication against Lewis; after this a truce was concluded and prolonged till Easter,

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soon after which the French laid siege to Lincoln castle, when the earl of Pembroke, who had been appointed Regent, resolved to raise the siege, and as the French were in possession of the city, and its inhabitants in their interest, he threw a reinforcement into the castle; then stormed the city, slew the French General, with most of his troops, and gratified the soldiers with plundering the citizens. This obliged Lewis to send for a reinforcement from France; but his troops being intercepted and destroyed by the English fleet, he was obliged to come to a composition, and on his receiving 15,000 marks agreed to return home, and to restore the English dominions in France. The king of Scotland and the Prince of Wales were included in this treaty, the former of which came to Northampton, and paid homage to Henry for the fees he held in England.

The Regent dying in 1218, that event was followed by several commotions, which being soon quelled, the people bent their thoughts upon recovering the English provinces in France, which Lewis, notwithstanding his oath, refused to restore; but this was deferred, till the King was of age.

Henry began his majority with exacting large sums of money from the people, and annulling the two sacred charters granted by his father. He landed in Britany with a numerous army, and then spending his time in diversions and entertainments, shamefully returned, after he had spent all his treasure; but not being able to prevail on the people to continue a war he had so badly begun, he renewed his exactions, and by the advice of the bishop of Winchester,

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sent for about 200 Knights from Gascony and Poictou, on whom he conferred the most considerable employments. This exasperated the Barons, who threatened to elect a new King, if Henry did not remove from his person and councils, the Bishop of Winchester and the foreigners; but Henry ordered the estates of the Barons to be plundered. Henry afterwards renewed the war, in which he lost all Poictou, and then concluded a truce with Lewis for five years, to purchase which Henry consented to pay him 5000l. annually.

Henry, on his return to England, exacted great sums from the Jews, which he lavishly spent; and at one entertainment had 30,000 dishes. The parliament were now taking measures to deprive him of the administration of affairs; but he prorogued them, and suffered the Pope's Nuncio, who had a little before fleeced the people, to renew his exactions. The King afterwards met with many mortifications from his parliament and people, who at length obliged him to renew the two charters with great ceremony*: After which, the parliament granted him a subsidy for suppressing an insurrection in Guienne. He soon reduced that province, and

* The Lords spiritual and temporal, were assembled before the King in Westminster-Hall, with each a lighted taper in his hand, when the archbishop of Canterbury denounced a terrible curse against those who should violate the laws or alter the constitutions of the kingdom; then the charters were read aloud, and confirmed by the King, who all this time kept his hand upon his breast, after which every one threw his taper upon the ground to raise a great smoke, and wished *that those who violated the charters might so smoke in hell!*

returned to England, where he renewed his exertions. Prince Richard, Henry's brother, being elected King of the Romans, took the immense sum of 700,000*l.* into Germany to support his election, while the King amassed 950,000 marks for an expedition to the Two Sicilies, which were offered him by the Pope, though the crown belonged to Conradin the Emperor Conrad's son. The people being now grievously oppressed, and the Barons finding that Henry could not be bound by the most solemn oaths, undertook to reform the government, and a parliament was held at Oxford, where 24 commissioners were chosen, twelve for the King, and twelve for the Barons, who drew up six articles, by which it was agreed that the King was to conform to the Magna Charta; to let the public officers be chosen by the commissioners; to deliver to them the custody of his castles, and to hold three parliaments annually*. These articles were approved by the parliament, and assented to by the King, who soon after prevailed on the Pope to absolve him from his oath; told the parliament that he would no longer regard these articles, and took refuge in the Tower. This dispute was however accommodated by the Barons consenting to moderate the articles, and by the alterations being confirmed by the King. However they soon after broke out into an open war, when a decisive battle was fought near Lewes in Sussex, in which the King's army was

* And this is supposed to be the first time that the representatives of the commons were admitted to sit in parliament.

defeated,

defeated, and himself, Prince Edward his son, and the King of the Romans taken prisoners; but afterwards the Earl of Leicester and Gloucester quarrelling, the latter joined Prince Edward, who had made his escape from his keepers, and uniting the forces they raised, marched against the Earl of Leicester, whom they defeated and slew, by which means the King was set at liberty; but peace was not restored till some time after, when Prince Edward engaged in a crusade and went to the Holy Land.

About two years after this Henry died at London on the 20th of November 1272, in the 65th year of his age, and 56th of his reign, and was buried in Westminster-abbey.

He was of a middle stature, strong and well set, but had one of his eyes half closed. This Prince was chiefly remarkable for his profuseness, his insincerity, and inconstancy, which obliged the Barons to defend their legal rights.

The most singular incident in his reign, was the introduction of the commons into parliament. In 1240 there was a great battle among the fish at sea, and eleven whales were cast on the shore. In 1245 the King rebuilt Westminster-abbey in that magnificent Gothic manner in which it now appears. And in this reign there was so dreadful a famine, that the people even eat the bark of trees, and 20,000 are said to have been starved to death in London.

IX. EDWARD *the* FIRST,
from 1272 to 1307.



Far distant when acknowle dg'd, EDWARD came,
Assum'd the crown, and rul'd with matchless
fame ;
Welsh, Scots, he conquer'd, made and unmade
kings,
Reform'd the law, and clip'd the clergy's wings.

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HIS COTEMPORARIES.

POPES.

<i>Gregory X.</i>	1271
<i>Innocent V.</i>	1276
<i>Adrian V.</i>	1276
<i>John XXI.</i>	1276
<i>Nicholas III.</i>	1277
<i>Martin IV.</i>	1281
<i>Honorius IV.</i>	1285
<i>Nicholas IV.</i>	1288
<i>Celestin V.</i>	1294
<i>Boniface VIII.</i>	1294
<i>Benedict IX.</i>	1303
<i>Clement V.</i>	1305

Emperors of the West.

<i>Frederic II.</i>	1212
<i>Rodolphus I.</i>	1273
<i>Adolp. of Nassau</i>	1291
<i>Albert I.</i>	1298

Kings of France.

<i>Philip III.</i>	1270
<i>Philip IV.</i>	1285

Kings of Scotland.

<i>Alexander III.</i>	1249
<i>John Baliol</i>	1293
<i>Robert Bruce</i>	1306

Emperors of the East.

<i>Michael VIII.</i>	1259
<i>Andronicus II.</i>	1283

EDWARD, surnamed Long-shanks was in the 33d year of his age when his father died, and was on his return from Palestine, when, attended only by 10,000 Englishmen, he struck a general panic into the Saracens, who dreaded him as much as they had done his great uncle Richard Cœur de Lion. He narrowly escaped being murdered there by an assassin, who attempting to stab him to the heart, he received a wound in his arm, which was given by a poisoned dagger, and it is affirmed that he owed his life to the tender affection of Eleonora his wife, who accompanied him in the voyage, and sucked the venom out of the wound. He arrived in England

land with his faithful Queen on the 25th of July 1274, and they were both crowned at Westminster on the 19th of August following * ; when the new King entered upon his government, with universal acclamations of joy. He began his reign with a strict enquiry into the affairs of his kingdom, particularly with regard to the Royal Prerogative, and made a Law to prevent any Tax being laid on the people without the consent of the Commons. He regulated the magistrates, confirmed the great charter, and having composed the troubles in England, led an army into Wales, to punish Lewellyn for having refused to pay him homage, and after three years compelled him to sue for peace.

Edward then set about rectifying the coin, which had been so much adulterated by the Jews, that he caused 280 of them to be put to death ; he also passed the statute of Mortmain, to prevent estates from falling into the hands of the clergy. Afterwards Lewellyn revolted again, on which Edward marched against him, and defeated his troops in a battle, in which Lewellyn was slain, and his country subdued †. David his brother was afterwards taken, and what seems very astonishing, was tried at Shrewsbury, condemned, and executed as a traitor.

* The ceremony of this coronation was very magnificent.—The King and Queen of Scotland were present, and by way of gift to the populous, 500 horses were let loose to the property of those who could catch them.

† In Lewellyn's pockets were found some letters in cypher, which Edward made the same use of, that Cæsar did of those found in the custody of Pompey, after the battle of Pharsalia : He destroyed them that he might not think ill of those he was inclined to call his friends.

Edward

Edward afterwards summoned a parliament at Ruthin, where it was resolved that Wales should be inseparably united to England. But some of the Welsh nobles telling the King that he would never peaceably enjoy their country, till they were governed by a Prince of their own nation, he sent for his Queen, who was then pregnant, to lie in at Caernarvon, where she was brought to bed of a Prince, whom the states of Wales acknowledged for their Sovereign, and since that time the eldest sons of the Kings of England have borne the title of Princes of Wales *. Edward afterwards punished the Judges for bribery, and banished the Jews, who amounted to about 15,000, for usury, and adulterating the coin. Soon after this Queen Eleanor died at Grantham in Lincolnshire: to whose memory the King erected a cross at every place where the corpse rested in the way to Winchester; as at Grantham, Lincoln, Stamford, Gaddington, Northampton, Stoney-Stratford, Dunstable, St. Albans, Waltham and Charing.

Edward carried his arms into Scotland, where King Alexander III. had lately died without male issue. In this war he won great honour, and shewed himself an extraordinary politician. He took the three important places of Berwick, Dunbar, and Edinburgh. John Baliol their King, who was supported by Edward, repaired

* No people in the world were ever more fond of their liberty and their language than the Welch. The first they gloriously defended, without foreign alliances, and without naval power, against the Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Normans, till the reign of Edward I. and the latter they have preserved, together with the most of their manners and customs, to this day.

to him in the most humble manner, renewed the oath of fealty, and put the whole kingdom in his power; on which the Scottish nobility, being summoned to Berwick, took the oath of allegiance to King Edward, who might easily have been crowned King of Scotland, had he not chose to unite it to England; he confined Baliol; imprisoned several of the Scotch nobility; brought their crown, sceptre, * stone and robes of state to England; burnt the public records, and placed garrisons all over the country. But while Edward was reducing Scotland by force, he lost his dominions in France by treachery: to recover them, he formed a confederacy against the French, by entering into a league with the several princes of Germany, and other powers, but these being bribed into the French interest, he was obliged, after leading an army of 50,000 men into Flanders, to make a truce with the French King, and return to England. While Edward was in Flanders, William Wallace, the glory of Scotland, rose up in defence of his country, and, having suddenly dispossessed the English of all the strong places they possessed, was declared regent of the kingdom; on which

* The famous stone which Edward I. conveyed to Westminster, is the same that was placed at Scone by the Scots after their general slaughter of the Picts; and is fabulously reported to be the same that served Jacob for a pillow. It was inclosed in a wooden chair for the inauguration of their Kings, and had this distich written on it:

*Ni fallat Fatum, Scoti quocunque locatum
Invenient Lapidem, regnare tenentur ibidem.*

Or Fate's deceiv'd, and Heav'n decrees in vain;

Or where they find this Stone, the Scots shall reign.

Edward

Edward hastily returning from France, advanced into Scotland at the head of a powerful army, and defeated Wallace, who, several years after, was betrayed into the hands of the English, and sent to London, where Edward treated him with unpardonable severity, and made this great hero suffer the death of a traitor. Edward gained several other victories in Scotland, which he thrice conquered, and at length vowed that he would destroy that kingdom from sea to sea, but was seized by a dysentery, and died in the little town of Burgh on the 7th of July 1307, in the 68th year of his age, and the 35th of his reign, but his body was interred in Westminster-Abbey. Just before his death he recommended three things to his son and successor, and enjoined him to perform them on pain of a curse for his disobedience. The first was to prosecute the war vigorously in Scotland, and desired that his bones might be carried at the head of the army sent on that expedition, which object he imagined would animate the English, and depress the spirits of the Scotch. The second was, to send his heart to the Holy Land with 32,000*l*. which he had provided for the support of the holy sepulchre. And the third was, never to recall his old favourite Pierce Gaveston, a gentleman of Gascony, whom the King had banished for corrupting the Prince by his dissolute example. In these, however, the Prince disobeyed his father, and the consequence of that disobedience was fatal to him and his friends.

Edward was a head taller than the generality of men; his person was well made, strong

and handsome ; but his legs being rather too long, he was thence called Long-shanks. He had black hair and sparkling eyes, prodigious strength, and great activity. He was the bravest soldier of his age, and the best legislator of his family ; more acts for the good of his subjects passed in his reign, than in any of the preceding ; and his regard for the laws was so great, that he publicly imprisoned the Prince of Wales his son, for breaking into the park of the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry.

In the second year of his reign a great rot happened among the sheep, which continued for twenty-five years together. In his twenty-first year great part of the town of Cambridge was destroyed by fire ; and in his twenty-seventh, his own palace at Westminster was consumed. Towards the end of his reign provisions were so exceeding cheap, that a fat cock sold for three half-pence, two pullets for the same price, and wheat for twelve-pence a quarter, which was in weight equal to about four shillings of our present money ; but the value of silver being at least five times greater than it is at present, this one shilling was equal to at least twenty shillings.

X. EDWARD *the* SECOND,
from 1307 to 1327.



Of person comely, but of genius mean,
 Oppos'd by faction, and a faithless Queen;
 For crimes of fav'rites harrass'd and dethron'd,
 Oppress'd by murd'ers poor *Caernarvon* groan'd.

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His

HIS C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

POPES.		Frederic III.	1314
Clement V.	1305	Kings of France.	
John XXII.	1316	Philip IV.	1285
Emperor of the East.		Lewis X.	1314
Andronicus II.	1278	Philip V.	1316
Emperors of the West.		Charles IV.	1332
Albert I.	1278	King of Scotland.	
Henry VII.	1308	Robert Bruce	1306

EDWARD of Caernavon was twenty-three years of age when his father died. He began his reign, with recalling Pierce Gaveston, whom his father had banished, and whom he loaded with honours, and then went to Boulogne in France, where he married Isabella the daughter of the French king, whom he conducted to England, and they were both crowned at Westminster on the 24th of February 1308. His ridiculous fondness for Gaveston, however, rendered him both odious to the Queen and the Barons, and created innumerable disputes; the Barons frequently banishing him, and the King recalling and loading him with fresh honours. At length the Barons had recourse to arms, and Gaveston being taken, was beheaded by order of the Earl of Warwick. Mean while the Scots gained three victories over the English, and made themselves masters of every place in that kingdom.

About

About this time a tanner's son of Exeter pretended that he was the eldest son of Edward I. and changed at nurse, but his imposture soon brought him to the gallows. About the same time the King deprived the Earl of Lancaster of his wife, and gave her to a mean Knight. The Barons complained of several grievances, and compelled the King to admit a certain number of Barons into his council, and to do nothing without their advice.

King Edward now raised the two Spencers, father and son, to the summit of power, and young Spencer at length supplied in his heart the place formerly possessed by Gaveston, when the new favourite became more intolerable than the old one, on which the Barons suddenly appearing in arms, and petitioning the King for the removal of the Spencers, they were banished by the parliament. The King now levied an army, took some castles from the Barons, and recalled the Spencers; he then pursued the Earl of Lancaster to Burrowbridge in Yorkshire, which was defended by Sir Andrew Harcla for the King, with whom the Earl engaged, but the Earl of Hereford being killed, his troops fled, when Harcla pursuing them, took the Earl of Lancaster prisoner, with 95 Barons and Knights, on which the scaffolds were drenched with more English blood than had been thus spilt since the Norman conquest. Edward next turned his thoughts on invading Scotland; but wanting provisions, returned without striking a blow, on which Bruce king of Scotland pursued him to York, seized his baggage, destroyed 20,000 of the English, and then consented to a peace for thirteen years.

The two Spencers now governed the kingdom in so arbitrary a manner, as to incur the general hatred both of the Queen and people. Queen Isabella fled to her brother Charles King of France, carrying with her the Prince her son, and the nobility taking arms, sent for the Queen, who, on her landing, found the people in general devoted to her, and in a few days she had a numerous army, when marching towards London, the King fled into the west; but the Queen still pursuing him, he set sail for Ireland, but was driven back into Wales. Hugh Spencer the father, being taken in Bristol castle, was, without the form of a trial, hanged and quartered, and the King himself, who had been for some time concealed in the abbey of Neath in Wales, being at length discovered, was sent prisoner to the Queen, and the young Spencer, who was taken with his Majesty, was hanged on a gallows fifty feet high.

The Queen, who had now taken possession of the sovereign power, forgot every call of nature and of duty, and was entirely governed by Mortimer, whom she took to her bed. King Edward was deposed, and the son proclaimed King, when the archbishop of Canterbury preached a sermon, and chose for his text, *The voice of the people, the voice of God*. The young Prince, however, dutifully and solemnly vowed not to accept the crown, without his father's consent, whereupon they obliged the old king to resign the crown in the 43d year of his age, and the 20th of his reign, after which he was treated with the greatest indignities, and at last cruelly murdered;

murdered; for some assassins covered him with a feather-bed, and held him down, while others thrust a horn-pipe up his body, through which they conveyed a red hot iron, and burnt his bowels to prevent any external appearance of violence.

Thus fell Edward from the height of royalty to the miserable state of a criminal, and was at last murdered by his own vassals, and probably by the order of his own Queen: a sad example of the consequence of a Prince's being misguided by fawning sycophants; for that was the principal charge exhibited against the unhappy Edward. He was buried in the abbey church of Gloucester; and those who hated him while living, revered him as a saint after he was dead.

This Prince had a noble stature, good mien, and majestic presence: he was very handsome, and, notwithstanding all his faults and his being extremely weak, made salutary laws, and gave great encouragement to the commercial interest of his kingdom.

In 1317, a great famine happened in England, which continued so long that wheat was sold for three pounds a quarter, or twelve pounds of our present money, and the poor were obliged to eat horse-flesh, dogs, and cats. In 1323, the greatest earthquake happened that had ever been known in England, and in 1324, the order of the Knights Templars was suppressed, and their effects assigned to the Hospitallers or Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, now called the Knights of Malta.

XI. EDWARD *the* THIRD,
from 1327 to 1377.



Triumphant EDWARD, the Black Prince's sire,
In peace and war we honour and admire;
France conquer'd, Scots subdu'd, preserve his
name;
But his last days eclips'd his former fame.

HIS COTEMPORARIES.

POPES.		<i>Lewis IV.</i>	1330
<i>John XXII.</i>	1316	<i>Charles IV.</i>	1347
<i>Benedict XII.</i>	1334	Kings of France.	
<i>Clement VI.</i>	1342	<i>Charles IV.</i>	1322
<i>Innocent VI.</i>	1352	<i>Philip VI.</i>	1328
<i>Urban V.</i>	1362	<i>John I.</i>	1353
<i>Gregory XI.</i>	1370	<i>Charles V.</i>	1364
Emperors of the East.		Kings of Scotland.	
<i>Andronicus II.</i>	1283	<i>Robert Bruce.</i>	1306
<i>Andronicus III.</i>	1332	<i>David II.</i>	1330
<i>John V.</i>	1341	<i>Edward Baliol</i>	1332
<i>John VI.</i>	1355	<i>David II. (again)</i>	1342
Emperors of the West.		<i>Robert II. (Stew-</i>	
<i>Frederic III.</i>	1314	art)	1470

EDWARD of Windsor was only fourteen years of age when his father resigned the crown, and his coronation was performed on the 26th of January 1327. Though the parliament appointed a regency, the Queen held the power in her own hands, and Roger Mortimer acted under her with more authority than the young Spencer had done under her husband. By their influence the young King concluded a dishonourable peace with the Scots, by which he renounced all his pretensions to Scotland, and gave his sister in marriage to David Bruce, King of the Scots; but on his coming to riper years he became sensible of his error, on which he caused the Queen his mother to be confined for life,

life, and Mortimer Earl of March to be hanged at Tyburn. Edward became now uneasy at the treaty concluded with Scotland, and though David Bruce, who had ascended the throne, was his brother-in-law, yet as the late King had broke the truce, he thought himself intitled to invade that nation ; for the bonds of affinity are not always a sufficient barrier to the ambition of Princes. He won four battles in a short time, and obliged King David to fly with his Queen into France, when he set up Edward Baliol in his room, and returned with his army into England; but the Scots still revolting, as soon as his victorious army left them, Edward was obliged to enter Scotland in an hostile manner, three several times, within the compass of four years. Edward now resolved to attack France, to which he laid claim, for Charles, his mother's brother dying, Philip of Valois had possessed himself of the kingdom, alledging the Salick law ; but Edward asserted that the Salick law, in excluding females from the succession, did not exclude their male issue, on which he prepared to assert his title, and in this he was encouraged by the parliament. In the mean time he entered into several alliances ; settled the woollen trade in England ; and created Prince Edward, his eldest son, Duke of Cornwall, who was the first person in England that bore the title of Duke ; since which time the eldest son of the King of England is born Duke of Cornwall. His first campaign passed without bloodshed, but he took the title of King of France, and quartered his arms with the *Flower de luces* of that kingdom, adding

ding the motto, *Dieu & mon droit*, or, God and my right.

On his return to England he obtained a considerable subsidy, and sailing again to France, he in person defeated the French fleet, destroyed or took 370 of their ships, and 30,000 men; then landing his forces, besieged Tournay, but being again called home to oppose the Scots, concluded a truce for one year with King Philip. The next campaign, however, he wasted all the country up to the walls of Paris, and obtained the glorious battle of Cressy, which was won by the Prince of Wales, who was then only sixteen years of age. The King having placed himself on an eminence, was a spectator of the astonishing valour of his son. At length the English leaders being apprehensive that the brave youth would be overpowered by numbers, sent to desire Edward to come to his assistance, who immediately asked if he was alive, and being told that he was not only living, but fighting with incredible bravery, replied, *that he must either conquer or die, since he would not rob him of the victory; for he should have the honour of the day.* This answer inspired the Prince with fresh courage, and his conduct animated his men. The French were defeated, and pursued with incredible slaughter. The King of Bohemia, who was present at the battle, died in the field, when his standard, on which were embroidered in gold three Ostrich feathers with these words *Ich dien*, that is, *I serve*, was taken and brought to the Prince of Wales, who, in memory of that signal victory, bore the Ostrich feathers in his coronet with the same motto, and his example has been followed by all

all his successors. In this battle the French lost eleven Princes, and 30,000 common soldiers, which was a greater number than the whole army of the conquerors, whose loss was very inconsiderable. When the victory was over, the King ran up to the Prince, and tenderly embracing him, "My gallant son, said he, you have nobly acquitted yourself, and well are you worthy of the kingdom." Six weeks after this victory, Edward's Queen defeated a numerous army of Scots, and took king David prisoner. These memorable battles were fought in 1346. Edward then laid siege to Calais, which he was obliged to reduce by famine, and then returned to England. The French soon after beginning to invest the seas, he set sail with his fleet, entirely defeated them, and took the Constable of France. He then sent over his son the Black Prince, who had distinguished himself at Cressy, who now after taking several towns, totally routed the French army commanded by King John, who had succeeded Philip, and in this glorious battle, which was fought near Poitiers, took the King, many nobles, and a multitude of private men prisoners, though when they engaged, the French army was six times as numerous as the English.

There were at this time two Kings prisoners in England. The French King, who was lodged at the Savoy, which was then a palace, though now a prison, and the King of Scotland, who was confined at Odiham in Hampshire. They were both treated with great respect, and had what liberty they desired. The King of Scotland was ransomed for 100,000 marks; and the French King, promising to pay 500,000 l.

was

was released ; but his subjects refusing to make good the agreement, he returned to England, and kept his court at the palace of the Savoy, where he died in 1363.

Edward now endeavoured to cultivate the arts of peace, and referred the management of all military affairs to his son the Black Prince, who was some time after invited over to Spain, where he deposed Henry the Bastard, who had usurped the crown, and restored Peter the lawful King ; but as Peter ungratefully refused the reward he had promised for this important service, he withdrew from that kingdom in disgust.

On his passing through Aquitain, he demanded a sum for the payment of his soldiers, but the people refusing to comply, he solicited the assistance of Charles the French King, who had succeeded John, and who summoned the Black Prince to appear before him, under the pretence that he ought to pay him homage for his dominions there. This occasioned a tedious war, in which several battles were fought, to the disadvantage of the English, who lost all they had so bravely conquered in France, except Calais, to which the death of the Black Prince greatly contributed.

At length Edward, after having settled the succession, was taken ill and died at Richmond in Surry, on the 21st of June 1377, in the 65th year of his age, and 51st of his reign, and was buried in Westminster-abbey, where there is a fine monument to his memory on the south side of Edward the Confessor's chapel. His eldest son Edward the Black Prince has a monument in the cathedral of Canterbury.

Edward

Edward III. was a majestic person, tall, well-shaped, and had a noble countenance that commanded respect and veneration. Though his conquests were great abroad, he deserves more praise for confirming the liberties of England at home. He maintained the prerogative of the crown without encroaching on the privileges of the people, and made more advantageous statutes for the good of the realm, and the encouragement of trade, than any of the Norman Princes. He curbed the papacy, and yet was a friend to religion: he was fond of men of merit, and encouraged the sciences: he raised many afflicted persons out of their undeserved misfortunes, and erected several public edifices, particularly Windsor castle, and the collegiate chapel of St. Stephen at Westminster, where the commons now sit in parliament.

This Prince instituted the order of the garter, which is now esteemed the most illustrious order in the whole world, and is said to have had its rise from the countess of Salisbury's dropping her garter at a ball, which the King taking up, and observing her in confusion, presented it to her, saying, *HONY SOIT QUI MALY PENSE*, *Evil to him who evil thinks*, when observing several of the nobles smile, he added, *Many a man has laughed at the garter, who will think it a very great honour to wear such a one*. It is added that in remembrance of this incident, he not only instituted the order of the garter, but gave for its motto the words spoke by him to the countess.

In this reign the great charter of liberties was confirmed ten several times, and an act passed that all law proceedings in the courts of Westminster should for the future be in English, instead
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of the French or Norman tongue. In 1348 a violent plague spread itself all over Europe, and so wasted England, that it is said scarce one half of the people were left in London, which at that time was very small, in comparison of its present state; 57,374 persons died between the 1st of January and the 1st of July, and upwards of 50,000 were buried in one year in the churchyard belonging to the Cisterians, or the Charterhouse of London. There was also about this time a frost, which lasted from the middle of September to the month of April. In the 11th year of Edward's reign there was such plenty, that a quarter of wheat sold for two shillings, a fat ox for a noble, a fat sheep for six-pence, a fat goose for two-pence, a fat pig for a penny, and other things in proportion; but in his 27th year there was a great scarcity, occasioned by a drought, which lasted from the end of March to the end of July. In 1357, a murrain happened among the cattle, and swept off great numbers. Towards the latter end of this reign, that eminent reformer John Wickliff preached against the superstitious ceremonies of the Romish church. But his doctrine did not spread itself effectually till the reign of Henry the Eighth, when the Reformation was founded on similar principles.

XII. RICHARD *the* SECOND,
from 1377 to 1399.



Richard, from valiant fire and grandfire sprung,
Prov'd weak, perverse and rash; for he was young,
Yet brave, from rebels did defend his throne,
And, when depos'd, lost not his life alone.

HIS C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

Wenceslaus

1378

Gregory XI. 1370

Urban VI. 1378

Boniface IX. 1389

Kings of France.

Charles V. 1364

Charles VI. 1380

Emperors of the East.

John VI. 1355

Emanuel II. 1391

Kings of Scotland.

Emperors of the West.

Robert II. 1370

Charles IV. 1347 *Robert III.* 1390

RICHARD of Bourdeaux, the son of Edward the Black Prince, was but eleven years of age when he succeeded his grandfather, and was crowned at Westminster on the 16th of July 1377, when he was put under the tuition of his uncles, John Duke of Lancaster, and Edmund Earl of Cambridge. The King's youth, and the ambition of his uncles, soon occasioned great uneasiness, and the dissatisfaction increased when Richard arrived at maturity; for he suffered his favourites to oppress the people, while they, in order to establish their own power, endeavoured to render him absolute. Richard treated the parliament in very rough language, alienated the majority of the nobility, and exasperated the commons.

The Duke of Lancaster had such influence as to get a poll-tax passed at twelve-pence a head, to all persons above fifteen years of age, which

was levied with such lawless severity as to cause an insurrection among the people of Kent and Essex. Wat Tyler and Jack Straw were their leaders; the former beginning the insurrection on account of his daughter being ill-used by a collector of this tax; for on the father's declaring she was under the age appointed by the law, the collector behaved with the most indecent rudeness. At which Tyler, being greatly exasperated, beat out his brains with a hammer; then making known the occasion of this murder, the violation of the most sacred rights of the subject, the people rose in the defence of the honour of their families, and soon amounted to above 100,000 men, when advancing directly to London, they cut off the heads of all the Lords, gentlemen, and lawyers that fell into their hands, plundered a great part of the city, destroyed many Noblemens houses, and committed great outrages. The King himself was obliged to come to a conference with Wat Tyler in Smithfield; upon which William Walworth, the mayor of London, boldly rid up to Wat Tyler, and gave him such a blow on the head with his sword, as laid him dead at his feet. The rebels then bent their bows to revenge his death, when Richard called out, "What, my lieges, will you kill your King, follow me, I'll be your leader, and grant whatever you desire." At which they readily followed the king into St. George's fields, where finding 1000 citizens in arms, the greatest part of them separated, and the remainder retreated to a place north of London, still called Jack Straw's castle, where they were soon persuaded to disperse. For this action Mr.

Walworth

Walworth was knighted, and the King ordained the mayor of London should ever after bear the title of Lord, and that the dagger should be added to the city arms, which was before a plain cross.

The rebellion also extended into Norfolk and Suffolk, but it was suppressed by the Bishop of Norwich, who defeated the rebels and beheaded Wraw and Littester, while the King sent an army of 40,000 men into Kent and Essex, to punish the ringleaders, many of whom were slain, and Jack Straw, with above 1500 of his followers, were hanged.

The Scots, taking advantage of these commotions, made an irruption into England, and burnt several towns and castles; while the French, on the other hand, were beginning hostilities; but Richard, raising an army of 300,000 men, protected both the north and south parts of England from these intended invasions.

The King's fondness for his favourites Robert de Vere Earl of Oxford, whom he created Duke of Ireland, and Michael de la Poole, who was made Earl of Suffolk, raised such discontent that the Barons had recourse to arms, and obliged him to part with his favourites, and to admit of fourteen commissioners to take care of the public affairs jointly with himself.

King Richard, however, soon after recalled his favourites, and declared, *that he would not turn the meanest scullion out of his kitchen, to oblige the parliament again.* They persuaded him to free himself from the subjection of the parliament, upon which the Lords took arms again, obliged the King to take refuge in the Tower, and

and afterwards forced him to resign the crown. Henry Duke of Hereford, the son of John of Gaunt, was then declared King, after which Richard was removed to Pontefract castle, where Sir Pierce de Exton with eight ruffians, in hopes of pleasing Henry, rushed in upon him, when Richard, resolving to die like a man, wrested a poll-axe from one of their hands, and laid four of them dead at his feet; but Exton mounting on a chair behind him, gave him so violent a blow on the head with a club, that he fell down senseless, and thus died in the 33d year of his age, after a reign of 22 years.

King Henry IV. ordered his body to be removed to Westminster-Abbey, and caused a monument to be erected to his memory and to that of his Queen, in Edward the Confessor's chapel.

Richard II. had a very graceful person, and a sprightly engaging behaviour, and his bad administration was doubtless in a great measure owing to his youth.

In the fourth year of his reign a mortality almost depopulated the north of England: In his sixth year several churches were thrown down by an earthquake. In his twelfth year, there was a great plague and famine; and in this reign guns first came into use. It is also worthy of remark, that peaked high-toed shoes fastened to the knees with silver chains were in fashion about the middle of this King's reign; and soon after side-saddles were used, and long gowns worn, which were introduced by the Queen, a Bohemian Princess; for before that time the English women rode astride like the men.

XIII. HENRY *the* FOURTH,
from 1399 to 1413.



Lancastrian HENRY now the throne possess'd,
A Prince of no mean politics confess'd ;
But courts the priests their favour to engage ;
Hence Lollards felt dire persecution's rage.

CHAP. VI.

*From the beginning of the reign of HENRY IV. in
1399, to the reign of King JAMES I. in 1603.*

SECT. I.

The House of Lancaster, or, the Red Rose.

C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.		Emperors of the West.	
<i>Boniface IX.</i>	1389	<i>Wenceslaus</i>	1378
<i>Innocent VII.</i>	1404	<i>Robert le Pet</i>	1400
<i>Gregory XII.</i>	1406	<i>Sigismund</i>	1410
<i>Alexander V.</i>	1409	King of France.	
<i>John XXIII.</i>	1410	<i>Charles VI.</i>	1380
Emperor of the East.		King of Scotland.	
<i>Emanuel II.</i>	1391	<i>Robert III.</i>	1360

HENRY IV. surnamed Bolingbroke, from his being born at a town of that name in Lancashire, was raised to the throne as a reward for his past services to the state, though Edmund Mortimer was presumptive heir to the crown, as being descended from the daughter of Lionel Duke of Clarence, the third son of King Henry III. while Henry, Duke of Lancaster, was the son of John of Gaunt, the younger brother of Lionel, and the fourth son of Edward III. Hence arose those dreadful struggles between the houses of Lancaster and York, distinguished by the names of the Red and White Rose, which,
for

for the space of 85 years almost perpetually filled the nation with blood and slaughter.

Henry Duke of Lancaster was proclaimed King on the 30th of September 1399, the very day on which Richard was deposed. But though he received the crown from the parliament, he was unwilling to acknowledge that they had a power to give it, lest it should be from thence inferred that they had also a power to take it away; therefore on the 13th of October, the day of his coronation at Westminster, he published a proclamation, declaring, that he ascended the throne by right of conquest; by virtue of Richard's having resigned the crown to him; and as the next male heir of the late King.

Henry immediately rewarded those who had assisted him in mounting the throne, and created his eldest son Henry, who was then only thirteen years of age, Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, Lancaster and Aquitain, and Earl of Chester, while the parliament restored the privileges of the people, called Richard's ill advisers to an account, and settled the succession on the house of Lancaster.

Henry also at the same time sent ambassadors to the principal courts of Europe to give a favourable representation of Richard's deposition, and of his own promotion, by which means he prevented his being disturb'd by foreign powers. The King of Scotland, after having taken Werk castle, was prevailed on to confirm the truce; and Henry prudently endeavoured to insure the affections of his people, by shewing the tenderest concern for their interests, and the greatest detestation of the tyrannical proceedings of his pre-

predecessor. But this calm was succeeded by violent storms which lasted till the close of his reign.

The Dukes of Albemarle, Surry and Exeter, the Earls of Salisbury and Gloucester, the Bishop of Carlisle, and Sir Thomas Blount, being Richard's friends, formed a conspiracy in the year 1400, in order to assassinate Henry and restore Richard to the throne. But being discovered, and the whole scheme frustrated, they assembled an army of 40,000 men, and set up Maudlin a priest, whose person resembled Richard's, to pretend that he was Richard himself. They proposed to seize the King at Windsor, but by their negligence, giving Henry time to raise an army of 20,000 men, they retired to Cirencester in Gloucestershire, when the mayor of the town seizing the generals, and beheading the Duke of Surry and the Earl of Salisbury, the rebel army dispersed. The Duke of Exeter was afterwards beheaded at Pleshe in Essex, and the Earl of Gloucester at Bristol. Maudlin was hanged at London, and this conspiracy hastened the death of the late King, who was soon after basely murdered at Pontefract.

Henry now invaded Scotland; but an insurrection in Wales obliged him to conclude a peace with the Scots. Owen Glendower, a private gentleman, possessed of the most heroic courage, and many of the virtues of a patriot, endeavouring to free his countrymen from their subjection to the English, prevailed on them to renounce their allegiance to Henry, and assuming the title of Prince of Wales, defeated the Lord Grey, entered Herefordshire, made Edmund Mortimer Earl of March prisoner, and ravaged the country

try on the west of the Severn. Mean while Henry was employed in suppressing the Lollards, or the followers of Wickliff; and had burnt William Sawtree, a clergyman in London, as an heretic. This was the first man who suffered death in England for the sake of religion after the establishment of christianity.

However, in 1401, Henry led his army into Wales; but Glendower withdrawing into the mountains, he returned to London, where, in 1402, he caused Roger Clarendon, the natural son of Edward the Black Prince, and several others to be put to death, for maintaining that Richard was alive, and that King Henry was an usurper. The same year he married Joanna of Navarre, widow of the Duke of Britany, and then advanced again towards Wales; but was unable to come up with Glendower, who retired to the mountains of Snowdon.

In the mean while, the Scots invaded England under the command of the Earl of Douglas; but were defeated at Halidown-hill by the Earl of Northumberland and his son Henry Hotspur, with the loss of above 10,000 men: and in this victory the Earls of Douglas, Athol, Angus, and many other officers of distinction, were made prisoners; but the King ordering Northumberland, in 1403, to deliver up the prisoners into his hands, the Earl was so exasperated, that though he had lately raised Henry to the throne, he now, with Henry Piercy, surnamed Hotspur, his son, and some other Lords, agreed to set the crown on the head of Edward Mortimer Earl of March, whom Glendower kept prisoner in Wales. Upon
which

which it was stipulated, that the Earl of March should enjoy all the kingdom south of Trent, the Earl of Northumberland all the country north of that river, and Glendower all the countries west of the Severn. The rebel army being encamped near Shrewsbury the King marched directly thither, with a body composed of 14,000 choice troops, headed by himself, the Prince of Wales, and the Scotch Earl of March, while the rebel army, which was more numerous, was headed by Henry Hotspur, the Earl of Worcester, and the Scotch Earl of Douglas. The battle was fought on the 22d of July, at a place afterwards called Battle-field. The King and the Prince of Wales distinguished themselves by their bravery, and though Hotspur and Douglas animated their men by their example, the King obtained so compleat a victory, that about 10,000 of the rebels were killed, (among whom was the brave Hotspur, who fell by the hands of the Prince of Wales,) though the King had only 1600 men killed, and 4000 wounded. The body of Hotspur was quartered and fixed on poles in the high-ways: the Earl of Worcester and Baron Kinderton, being taken prisoners, were beheaded; but the Earl of Northumberland was pardoned, and the Earl of Douglas was released by the King, on account of his valour. Glendower who was in this battle returned into Wales. He the next year entered into an alliance with the French, who encouraged the Britons to make a descent into the west of England, and Henry allowed his subjects to return the insult.

In the year 1405 the King sent the Prince of Wales at the head of an army against Glendower, when that Prince twice defeated the Welch. This success, however, was counterbalanced by the French taking several places in Guienne, upon which Henry applied to his Nobles to grant him an aid of money, but they being unwilling to establish so unparliamentary a precedent, refused him, because no application had been made to the Commons. This demand gave rise to another conspiracy, at the head of which was the Archbishop of York, the Earl of Northumberland, Thomas Mowbray Earl Marshal, and other noblemen, who assembled a large body of troops at York, and published a manifesto, declaring the King a traitor, and that they were resolved to place Mortimer the lawful heir on the throne. Before the King had intelligence of this rebellion he had caused a body of troops to assemble near York, under the command of Ralph Nevil Earl of Westmoreland, in order to make head against the Scots: this Earl, being sensible of the superiority of the rebels, desired a conference with the Archbishop and the Earl Marshal, in an open plain encompassed by both armies, which being agreed to, the Earl of Westmoreland, under the pretence of convincing the Archbishop of his sincerity, ordered his guards to withdraw, upon which the Archbishop and Earl Marshal followed his example, expecting that Westmoreland would voluntarily join their party; but their guards were hardly out of sight, when the other return'd, seized the Archbishop and Mowbray, and conducted them to

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the royal army. This piece of treachery threw the rebels into such confusion, that they instantly dispersed, and the Earl of Northumberland with other Lords retired into Scotland. The rebellion being now suppressed, the King went into the north and caused the Archbishop, the Earl Marshal, and Lord Falconbridge, to be beheaded.

In the mean time the French landed 12,000 men at Milford-haven, under the command of Marshal de Montmorency, who joining Glendower took several places, but the King marching towards Wales, Montmorency returned to France and left Glendower to defend himself, who obliged the King however to retire.

The King now deprived the Earl of Northumberland of the royalty of the Isle of Man, which he gave to Sir John Stanley, in whose family it remained till the beginning of the present reign. He extorted a subsidy from his parliament, and procured an act to exclude the female issue from the crown; but this being considered as an introduction of the Salick law, the King was obliged to repeal it the same year, and a new act was passed by which the females and their posterity were confirmed in the possession of their natural rights, which greatly strengthened Mortimer's title, and consequently that of his descendant the Duke of York; who afterwards dethron'd the grandson of this king.

In 1406 James Prince of Scotland, landing on the coast of Norfolk in his way to France, was seized, brought up to London, and by King Henry's orders confined in the Tower. The next year Henry concluded a truce with the Britons. The Earl of Northumberland, raising an army in
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the north, was defeated by Sir Thomas Rokely, sheriff of York, and slain on the spot.

In 1410 the court endeavoured to destroy the Constitution, by getting the sheriffs to return such representatives in Parliament as they thought proper. But the Commons preserved the privilege, justly claimed by the people, of electing their own representatives, by passing an act against false returns.

Henry having put an end to the troubles at home, determin'd to carry the war into the Holy Land, and was providing a fleet for that purpose, when death put an end to all his projects. He died in the Jerusalem chamber at Westminster, on the 20th of March 1413, in the 46th year of his age, and the 14th of his reign, and was interr'd in the cathedral at Canterbury.

His person was of the middle size. He had a serious and composed air, and was extremely afraid of losing a crown acquired by ways not universally approved. He lived in perpetual jealousy of his subjects, and even of his own son; who, though he led a dissolute life in his youth, does not seem to have given his father any ground for a suspicion of that nature.

In his reign began the persecution of the Lollards. He instituted the Duchy-Court of Lancaster. In 1403 a remarkable comet appear'd in England. In 1407 a terrible plague raged at London, which destroyed above 30,000. In this reign flourished Chaucer the celebrated poet, as also Whittington, lord-mayor of London, and William of Wickham, founder of Winchester-College.

XIV. HENRY *the* FIFTH,*from 1413 to 1422.*

All conqu'ring HENRY's parts and prowess rare,
The glorious fields of Agincourt declare;
A vicious Prince a virtuous King became;
But priests indulg'd kept England in a flame.

C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

John XXIII. 1410*Martin V.* 1417

Emperor of the West.

Sigismund 1410

Kings of France.

Charles VI. and VII. 1380

Emperor of the East.

King of Scotland.

Emanuel II. 1391 *Robert III.* 1390

THIS Prince was the eldest son of Henry IV. and was born at Monmouth in 1388. In his youth he was led into wild courses unbecoming his birth; but in the midst of all his extravagancies, he gave a singular proof of his moderation, in suffering himself to be led to prison, by order of the Lord Chief Justice, whom he struck in the execution of his office; and this circumstance gave the people the greatest hope that he would soon change his conduct, nor were they disappointed. He succeeded to the throne at 25 years of age: his coronation was performed at Westminster on the 9th of April 1413. And it is in very singular that before the performance of that ceremony, the Parliament were so sensible of his good sense and love for the people, that they offered to swear allegiance to him: But he in a very noble manner declined accepting this instance of their confidence, saying it was unreasonable they should swear to be faithful to him, before he himself had taken a solemn oath to govern them according to law.

His father's greatest enemies were the first in paying him their duty, and even the Earl of March, notwithstanding his having a just title to the crown, placed such confidence in his generosity, that he voluntarily put himself into his hands to convince him, that he had not the least intention to disturb the tranquility of his reign. The King banished from court the companions of his former riots, exhorting them to leave off their dissolute courses, and dismissing them with liberal presents. He then secured the freedom of Parliament, appointed persons of the greatest abilities for his Council; nominated good judges to preside in the courts of law, and shewed particular regard to the Lord Chief Justice who had the courage to commit him.

The French King, Charles VI. was at this time troubled with a delirium, and his kingdom divided between the factions of the Dukes of Burgundy and Orleans, and the next year Commissioners were appointed for adjusting the disputes between the two crowns, when those of France even offered to deliver up whatever had been taken from England since the conclusion of the treaty of Bretagne in 1360, and a proposal of marriage was offered by the French between the King of England and Catherine the King of France's youngest daughter. Henry however, seeing that nothing could be done by negotiation, resolved to have recourse to arms, when Henry Chichely, archbishop of Canterbury, advised the King in a Parliament held at Leicester to lay claim to the whole kingdom of France, as the heir and successor of Edward III. This war

was

was approved by the Parliament, who granted the King a large subsidy for carrying it on. He therefore demanded the crown of France as his right, upon which the Dauphin in contempt sent him a present of a ton of tennis balls, to let him know that he thought him fitter for play than for war; but Henry sent him word that he would soon repay him with such balls as the strongest gates of Paris should not be rackets sufficient to rebound.

Accordingly in 1415 Henry embarked his army about the beginning of August, on board his fleet at Southampton. This fleet consisted of 1500 transport ships, and his army amounted to 50,000 men; when the French dreading the approaching storm bribed * Richard Earl of Cambridge, Henry Scrope Lord Treasurer, and Sir Thomas Grey a privy-counsellor, to form a conspiracy against him in favour of the Earl of March, but that Earl discovering the whole to the King, they were seized, condemned, and executed for high treason.

King Henry landed at Havre de Grace in Normandy on the 21st of August, and immediately laid siege to Harfleur. He had a train of artillery, the largest of which he called his daughter, and several small ones his maidens, which played with such success against the town, that
it sur-

* This Earl of Cambridge was grandson to King Edward III. and married to the Earl of March's sister, by whom he had Richard afterwards Duke of York who lost his life in fighting against Henry VI. and was the father of King Edward IV. who conquered that Prince, and confined him in the Tower.

rendered in five weeks. Henry then, as his grandfather had done at Calais, expelled the inhabitants, and planted an English Colony in their room, which being done, he challenged the Dauphin to decide all their differences by single combat; but the Dauphin declined hazarding his person by fighting an enemy whom he had just before treated with contempt.

Henry soon found his forces greatly diminished by the flux, and that the French were assembling their forces from all parts. But though he might have reembarked at Harfleur, yet thinking that would have the appearance of flight, he boldly resolved to march by land to Calais. His march was however greatly interrupted by a body of French troops, and when he arrived at the Somme in order to pass that river, as Edward III. had done the day before the battle of Cressy, he found it so strongly guarded, that it was impossible to force a passage. He however soon after crossed that river between St. Quintin and Peronne.

As the French army was now six times more in number than the King's, they resolved to offer him battle in his march, and with all the confidence of victory sent three Heralds to challenge him to fight, to whom Henry replied that he was determined to pursue his march to Calais, and they should always find him ready to receive them. The French renewed their challenge, and Henry accepted it, tho' the former consisted of 150,000 men, and the English amounted to only 9000. The French therefore made rejoicings in their camp as if the English were already

ready defeated, and had even the insolence to send to Henry to know what he would give for his ransom, to which he replied, that a few hours would shew, whose care it would be to make that provision. The English, fatigued with their march, sick of the flux, and almost starved for want of food, were inspired by the example of their brave King, and resolved to conquer or die. In this situation Henry sent David Gam, a Welch captain, to reconnoitre the enemy, who bravely reported, that *there were enow to be killed, enow to be taken prisoners, and enow to run away.*

The King was encamped on a plain near Agincourt, and having drawn up his small army into two lines, the first commanded by the Duke of York and the second by himself, he posted 400 lances behind a wood, on the left of the field of battle, and lodged 200 archers in a low meadow fenced with bushes on the right. As the enemy's strength consisted in their cavalry, and his own in his infantry, he ordered sharp stakes, six or seven feet long, and pointed at both ends, to be fixed in the ground, to keep off the French horse and secure his own foot.* The King distinguished himself by wearing a gold crown on his helmet, and after solemnly offering up his prayers to heaven, he exhorted his troops to place all their trust in God, and then ordered Sir Thomas Erpingham to give the signal of battle, which he did by throwing up his truncheon into the air,

* This stratagem was afterwards practised by the Prince of Orange, who being Hereditary Stadtholder of Freezeland, his stakes were called Chevaux de Frise or Freeze-land Horse.

and the whole army with a mighty shout advanced towards the enemy. The English archers both in flank and front threw the French cavalry into confusion, when throwing away their bows, the English fell upon the enemy sword in hand, and after two attacks, the first line of the French were routed, the Constable of France kill'd, and the rest of the Princes and Generals made prisoners. The King now brought up his second line, and fighting on foot rushed furiously upon the enemy. He was stunned with a battle-axe, but recovering, boldly defended the body of his brother the Duke of Gloucester, who was knocked down, but at length received so violent a blow on the head, that he fell on his knees. The whole army were witnesses of his danger and intrepidity, and being animated by his example, pushed forwards with such resolution, that the French were obliged to give way. The Duke of Alençon perceiving the day was lost resolved not to survive the disgrace. He rushed forwards in search of Henry, and soon finding him, slew the Duke of York by his side, and then flew upon the King, and discharged so violent a blow at his head as to cleave off one half of the gold crown on his helmet; but at the same instant Henry struck him to the ground, where, though he endeavoured to save his life, he was killed by the soldiers. The second line of the French being now dispersed, the third fled without fighting; while the English pursued the fugitives, great numbers of whom they killed, and took more prisoners than they had men in the army; but an alarm being given, that the French had plundered the English camp, and were return-

returning to the fight, they were ordered to kill all their prisoners. An order which, however cruel, their own self-preservation rendered necessary; but the English soldiers had too much humanity to execute it. Upon which a band of ruffians were employed in this massacre.

Henry now finding himself victorious returned thanks to God, and publicly acknowledged that his success was owing to the favour of heaven. This memorable victory was obtained on the 25th of October 1415. The French had upwards of 10,000 men killed in the battle, 8000 of whom were noblemen and gentlemen. The prisoners amounted to 14,000, all of whom were put to death except the Dukes of Orleans and Bourbon, with 16,000 other persons of distinction; but though the loss of the enemy was so prodigious, that of the English amounted at most to no more than 400 men; but the Duke of York, the young Earl of Suffolk, and the brave David Gam, were among the slain.

Henry now continued his march to Calais, and embarking with his troops and prisoners on the 16th of November, landed at Dover and proceeded to London, where he and his army were received with all possible demonstrations of joy. Mean while France was again distressed by intestine commotions, upon which Henry left them to destroy each other.

In 1416 the Emperor Sigismund and the Earl of Holland came to England to mediate a truce between Henry and France; but the French, instead of agreeing to ratify the treaty, blocked up Harfleur by land and sea. The Earl of Dorset how-
ever

ever defended the town, till Henry sent his brother the Duke of Bedford with a fleet of 400 sail, and 20,000 men to relieve it, who having defeated Narbonne, the French admiral, raised the siege. Soon after Henry went to Calais, where he had an interview with the Duke of Burgundy, who engaged to assist him in obtaining the crown of France.

In 1417 the King returned to England, and he was so intent on carrying on the war with vigour, that though the parliament granted him a large subsidy, he mortgaged his crown for 100,000 marks to the Bishop of Winchester, part of his jewels to the city of London for 10,000*l.* and the remainder to private persons. He landed at Beville in Normandy on the first of August with 25,000 men, and the Duke of Burgundy at the same time investing Paris, gave him an opportunity of reducing Caen and other places, and the next year all Normandy fell again under the dominion of England, two hundred and fifteen years after Philip Augustus took it from King John.

In 1419 the Duke of Burgundy becoming reconciled to the Dauphin, they jointly agreed to oppose Henry, who took Pontois, by which he opened a way to the very gates of Paris; but the Dauphin assassinating the Duke of Burgundy, the French factions were revived, and the young Duke of Burgundy making himself master of the person of King Charles VI, was considered as Regent, in which quality he concluded a truce with Henry, which was afterwards confirmed by the treaty of Troye of the 25th of May 1420, by which it was agreed that Henry should marry the Prin-

Princess Catharine, and that after King Charles's decease the crown of France should descend to the King of England and his heirs, and the two kingdoms of France and England should be for ever united under one Prince, without subjecting the one to the other, but the laws and liberties of each should be preserved distinct and inviolable. This treaty was no sooner concluded than Henry was married to the Princess Catharine, and the two courts setting out for Paris, the two Kings and two Queens made their public entry into that city.

The next year Henry having settled his affairs in France, and appointed his brother the Duke of Clarence commander of his troops in that kingdom, returned to England with his Queen, who was crowned at Westminster. But soon after the Duke of Clarence was killed in a battle fought at Anjou on the 3d of April against the Earl of Buchan, who assisted the Dauphin with a body of Scotch auxiliaries, and having defeated the English, killed 15,000 men, and took many prisoners.

The parliament readily confirmed the treaty of Troye, but in a petition told the King, *the conquest of France proved the ruin of England*, and yet granted him a subsidy for prosecuting the war against the Dauphin. James Prince of Scotland had now been detained fifteen years in England, though he was at this time King of Scotland, and Henry hoping that his authority would oblige the Scotch auxiliaries to return home, went back to France, and took James with him, but Henry found himself mistaken.

M

Henry

Henry the next year advanced with a fresh army into France, consisting of 30,000 men. He threw a reinforcement into Paris, where the Duke of Exeter was blocked up by the Dauphin's forces ; took Meaux, and some other places, and there were several small engagements in different parts of the kingdom ; while the Dauphin avoiding a general battle kept possession of all the provinces beyond the Loire : but while Henry was marching towards that river, he was seized with a pleuretic fever, and was carried to Vincennes, where he sent for his brother the Duke of Bedford, and some of his nobility, who having entered his bed-chamber, he recommended to them the care and protection of his young son ; desired Bedford to take upon himself the administration of affairs in France, and that the Duke of Gloucester might be protector of England, and expired about two hours after, on the 31st of August, in the 34th year of his age, and the 10th of his reign. His body was carried with great funeral pomp to Calais, whence it was conveyed to England, and interred in Westminster-Abbey.

This King was brave, prudent, magnanimous and merciful, and though he died in the flower of his age, few princes have left behind them such shining proofs of every royal virtue.

This reign was filled with too many glorious actions to permit historians to record trifling circumstances. It is worthy of remark, however, that on Candlemas-Day, 1415, seven Dolphins were seen playing in the river Thames, and four of them taken.

HENRY

XV. HENRY *the* SIXTH,
from 1422 to 1461.



Meek, mild and merciful, but weak his sway ;
 A King of France, the French would not obey ;
 Tho' brave his Queen, the Yorkists seiz'd his
 throne,
 And his son's murder usher'd in his own.

M 2

His

His C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.		<i>Albert II.</i>	1438
<i>Martin V.</i>	1417	<i>Frederic IV.</i>	1449
<i>Eugenius IV.</i>	1431		
<i>Nicholas V.</i>	1447	Kings of France.	
<i>Galixtus III.</i>	1455		
<i>Pius II.</i>	1458	<i>Charles VII.</i>	1422
		<i>Lewis XI.</i>	1449
Emperors of the East.			
<i>Emanuel II.</i>	1391		
<i>John VII.</i>	1426	Kings of Scotland.	
<i>Constantine III.</i>	1448	<i>Robert III.</i>	1390
<i>and last Emperor</i>		<i>James I.</i>	1424
Emperors of the West.		<i>James II.</i>	1437
<i>Sigismund</i>	1410	<i>James III.</i>	1460

HENRY of Windsor was only nine months old when his father died. This young Prince was proclaimed King of England and heir of France, and his uncles John Duke of Bedford and Humphrey Duke of Gloucester were resolved to maintain what his father had procured for him. But as Charles VI. died at Paris on the 20th of October 1422, the face of affairs was soon changed in France. Henry was proclaimed King at Paris and the Dauphin at Poitiers, and several battles were fought, in which the English had generally the advantage. They had also taken several towns; but when they thought themselves near the end of the war, a stop was put to the English conquests. The Earl of Salisbury had invested Orleans, and when that place was near being

being surrendered, a country girl named Joan of Arc, who had been bred to the keeping of sheep, undertook to deliver France from the English. She bore the arms and habit of a man, headed the French, and by her frequent and successful sallies, obliged the English to raise the siege; then pursued and harrassed them; retook several places, attacked and defeated the brave Lord Talbot and took him prisoner. At length, after a number of astonishing exploits, this great heroine was taken at Compeigne, and burnt for a witch by the Duke of Bedford's order.

At twelve years of age King Henry was carried to France, and crowned at Paris; but still the war continued. The Duke of Burgundy, who had greatly contributed to the good fortune of the English, joined with Charles, on which the city of Paris shook off its allegiance to Henry, and the Duke of Bedford dying about the same time, the English governors who succeeded him were scarcely able to keep Normandy. At length a treaty of peace was set on foot, which ended only in a truce for eighteen months, when King Henry's marriage with Margaret of Anjou, the daughter to the titular King of Sicily, contributed to compleat his misfortunes.

Margaret immediately perceiving the weakness of the King's understanding, ruled both him and the kingdom. The nation had before been divided between two parties. The one in favour of the Duke of Gloucester, and the other of the Cardinal of Winchester, a proud, arrogant, ambitious prelate. The Queen joined with the latter, in order to ruin the Duke, who was beloved by the people, and was presumptive

heir to the crown. His dutcheſs, by the artifice of the Cardinal and his party, had been tried for forcery, for which ſhe ſuffered a public penance, and was confined in priſon : and now the Duke of Glouceſter was ſeized, and being cloſely confined, was the next day found dead in his bed, where it was ſuppoſed he was ſmothered by the Queen's order, and was afterwards buried at St. Albans. This Prince, who was called the good Duke Humphrey, being greatly beloved, his murder rendered the Queen and her miniſtry extremely odious, and gave the Duke of York an opportunity of claiming the crown.

This Prince was deſcended from Lionel Duke of Clarence, ſecond ſon to King Edward III. while King Henry was deſcended from John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaſter, the third ſon of the ſame Monarch, ſo that the right of primogeniture was plainly on the Duke's ſide. The Duke of York had the regency of France, where he governed well, and preſerved the countries ſtill poſſeſſed by the Engliſh, but the regency was taken from him and conferred upon the Earl of Somerſet, the Queen's favourite, who by his ill management loſt all, except the town of Calais and a ſmall diſtrict around it.

The loſs of Normandy being attributed to the Duke of Suffolk, he was impeached by the parliament, and committed to the Tower, but releaſed by the Queen, who reſtored him to his office of prime Miniſter, on which the commons petitioned for his being puniſhed according to his deſerts. The King then baniſhed him for five years, but being taken by an Engliſh ſhip in his paſſage to France, he was beheaded by the Captain on the

side of a cock boat in revenge for the Duke of Gloucester's murder.

This increased the party of the Duke of York, who was then in Ireland, and in order to sound the inclinations of the people he prevailed on Jack Cade, to assume the name of Mortimer, who having raised an army of Kentish men, advanced towards London, demanding that the Dukes of York, Exeter, Buckingham, and Norfolk should be restored to favour, which being refused, a battle was fought, in which the King's forces were defeated. Henry then fled from London, and Cade entering that city, beheaded the Lord Say and Seal who was High Treasurer; but a general pardon being issued by the King, Cade was deserted by his followers and afterwards slain as he was endeavouring to conceal himself.

The Duke of York having thus found that great numbers of people were ready to espouse his interest, withdrew into Wales, where he raised an army, on which the King marched against them, but being informed that if the Duke of Somerset was confined and brought to his trial, the Duke of York would disband his forces, he ordered Somerset to be seized, and then having an interview with the Duke of York, the latter fulfilled his promise, and they set out together for London; but while they were on the road, the Queen's faction set Somerset at liberty, and made the Duke of York prisoner, and carried him to London, but he was soon discharged. The Duke of York was however greatly exasperated, and after many debates withdrew, and raising another army, met the King's at St. Albans, where he gained a complete victory, in which the Duke
of

of Somerset, the Earls of Northumberland and Stafford were slain, and the King taken prisoner, on which the Duke of York conducted him to London, called a parliament in Henry's name, and was declared Protector of the kingdom.

The artful Queen, however, soon after obliged the Duke of York to retire from London, and he returned to Ireland, whither the Earl of Warwick, governor of Calais, went to consult him, and then going back to Calais, returned soon after, and landing in Kent, he raised an army of 25,000 men, with which he marched to London, and having made himself master of the Tower, joined his father, the Earl of Salisbury, who had a little before gained a victory over the royalists in Shropshire. They were met by the King's army at Northampton, when after a bloody battle, in which 10,000 were slain, and the King again taken prisoner, the Earls remained masters of the field, and conducted his Majesty to London. The news of this victory being carried to the Duke of York, he instantly left Ireland and asserted his claim in parliament, where it was decreed that Henry during his life should retain the title of King, and that the Duke of York should succeed him.

Mean while the Queen, who had fled into Scotland, returned into England, and having levied an army in the north, the Duke of York, with the Earl of Rutland his younger son, and the Earl of Salisbury, advanced to meet her, leaving the Earls of Warwick and Norfolk to secure the King; but the Duke, whose army was very inconsiderable, was defeated and slain at Wakefield, and his son, the young Earl of Rutland, who was not above twelve years of age,

cruelly killed by the Lord Clifford, and the Earl of Salisbury taken prisoner and beheaded.

Richard Plantagenet duke of York being thus dead, Edward Earl of March, his eldest son, took his title, and asserted his claim to the crown with an army of 23,000 men; defeated the Earls Wiltshire and Pembroke, and taking Owen Tudor, who had married Queen Catharine of France, King Henry's mother, he struck off his head; while the Queen, continuing her march towards London, obtained a victory over the Earls Norfolk and Warwick, by which she recovered King Henry. Queen Margaret's triumph, however, was but of short duration; for Edward Duke of York improving his late victory, march'd directly to London, obliged the Queen to return into the North, and was unanimously acknowledg'd King.

Thus ended the reign of Henry VI. which had lasted thirty-eight years and a half. He was temperate, chaste, and very religious. He loved justice and abhorred cruelty, but at the same time had weak intellects, was destitute of the least degree of courage, and had none of those talents that most peculiarly adorned his father.

In his reign the noble and useful art of printing was invented about the year 1440, the honour of which invention has been long disputed by Mentz in Germany and Haerlem in Holland. In K. Henry's 5th year there is said to have been a great rain, which lasted from April to the 1st of November, with scarce any intermission; and in his 17th year there was so great a famine that people were obliged to make bread of fern roots; but in 1454 there was such plenty of corn, that a quarter of wheat was sold for a shilling, which was equal to two shillings of the present money.

XVI. EDWARD *the* FOURTH,
from 1461 to 1483.



Not unmolested Yorkish EDWARD reign'd;
Yet, when victorious, he the throne maintain'd:
Revengeful, jealous, politic, but lewd;
His virtues were by luxury subdu'd.

S E C T. II.

The House of YORK, or the WHITE-ROSE.

C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

POPES.		King of France.	
<i>Pius II.</i>	1458	<i>Leewis XI.</i>	1461
<i>Paul II.</i>	1464		
<i>Sixtus IV.</i>	1471		
Emperor.		King of Scotland.	
<i>Frederic IV.</i>	1440	<i>James III.</i>	1460

EDWARD came to the throne, which he enjoyed both by descent and the authority of parliament, in the year 1461 and the 20th of his age; but no sooner was he proclaimed King in London than he pursued the Queen into the north, and both armies meeting, a bloody battle was fought, (principally with the Cross-bow, though Guns were then in use) in which 30,000 men were slain and the King and Queen defeated; on which King Henry and Margaret fled with the young Prince to Edinburgh; but Henry returning into England soon after in disguise, was seized, and with great barbarity conducted to London on a wretched horse, with his legs tied to the stirrups, and then committed to the Tower.

The Earl of Warwick, usually termed the King-maker, had been the chief instrument in raising Edward to the throne, but that Prince employing him to negotiate a marriage for him in France, and in the mean time falling in love with

with and marrying Elizabeth the widow of Sir John Grey, the Earl was so exasperated that he became his irreconcilable enemy, and raised a rebellion, in which he twice defeated the King's forces, and afterwards suddenly attacking the King's camp in the night, took his Majesty prisoner and confined him in Middleham castle, from whence he escaped, and joining the Lord Hastings in Lancashire, returned to London; when a treaty was set on foot, which not succeeding, both parties prepared for another battle, and Warwick's army being defeated, he was obliged to fly into France: Margaret also resorted to the French court, and applied to the French King for assistance. While Edward was wrap'd up in sensuality at home, the Earl of Warwick landed at Dartmouth with a few troops, which he soon increased to 60,000 men, upon which Edward also raised a numerous army at Nottingham, but as his enemies were advancing, the cry of King Henry was raised in his camp, on which Edward fled, embarked on board a vessel, and retired into Flanders. Warwick then took Henry out of the Tower, and he was again acknowledged the lawful King of England. But Edward landing in Yorkshire with 2,000 men, assumed only the title of Duke of York, and pretending that he came only to maintain his right to that Duchy was joined by great numbers, when throwing off the mask, he marched towards London, where he was received with acclamations of joy, and where Henry being taken, was again committed to the Tower.

Mean

Mean while the Earl of Warwick advanced with an army towards London, and was met by King Edward at Barnet, where a terrible battle was fought, in which the great Earl of Warwick was slain, and 17,000 men left dead in the field. However, some days after, the remainder of the Earl's army was assembled by the Lancastrians, and being joined by other forces was headed by the Queen, when Edward marching against her she was entirely defeated at Tewksbury, and taken prisoner with her son Prince Edward, the Duke of Somerset, and many other persons of distinction. The Prince being carried to Edward's camp, was asked why he was so rash as to enter the kingdom in arms, to which boldly replying, that he came to recover his right unjustly usurped, Edward struck him with his gauntlet on the mouth, when the Dukes of Gloucester and Clarence, the Earl of Dorset, and the Lord Hastings, stabbed him with their daggers, and thus massacred an amiable Prince in the 18th year of his age. And soon after King Henry was murdered in the Tower by the Duke of Gloucester, or, as others say, died with grief in the 50th year of his age.

Edward now put many of his enemies to death, but Queen Margaret, after being four years confined in the Tower, was ransomed by her father for 50,000 crowns. Edward annulled all King Henry's acts, and confirmed his own. He on many occasions behaved with great cruelty, and several persons in his reign were executed for very innocent jests. Henry Earl of Richmond was now the only person of the House of Lancaster who laid claim to the crown, and though Edward took great pains to have him cut off,

all his endeavours were in vain ; for the Duke of Brittany, to whom that Earl had fled, refused to put him in his power. Edward, by the advice of Richard Duke of Gloucester, caused his brother the Duke of Clarence to be drowned in a butt of sack. At length King Edward was seized with a fever, or, according to others, with an apoplexy, as he was preparing for a war with France, and died at Westminster on the 19th of April 1483, in the 42d year of his age, and the 23d of his reign. Some writers do not scruple to accuse the Duke of Gloucester of poisoning him. King Edward has a monument in the new chapel at Windsor founded by himself, composed of steel polished and gilt, the workmanship of which is very curious.

King Edward was remarkable for being the handsomest man of his age, and was excessively fond of women. The famous Jane Shore, whom Edward had debauched and taken from her husband, was his favourite mistress, for which she was persecuted in the reign of Richard III. and obliged to do public penance in St. Paul's church. In his youth he was distinguished for courage and activity, and afterwards for his luxury and sloth. In the beginning of his reign he behaved with great liberality, but towards the end of it was very avaricious.

In 1463 the importation of woollen cloths and other things manufactured in England were prohibited. In 1471 the art of printing was brought into England by William Caxton of London, Mercer, who first practised the same in Westminster-Abbey. And in 1478 a dreadful plague swept off many thousands.

XVII. EDWARD

XV

Poor
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XVII. EDWARD *the* FIFTH,
Two Months and twelve Days of 1483.



Poor child ! how short his reign ! domestic strife
 Untimely clos'd his own and brother's life ;
 He saw each faithful friend by fraud expire,
 By Richard's fraud, who did to rule aspire.

His C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

King of France.

*Sixtus IV.*1471 *Charles VIII.*

1483

Emperor of the West.

King of Scotland.

*Frederic IV.*1440 *James III.*

1460

TH E young Prince was at Ludlow when his father died, but being sent for to London was trepanned by his Uncle the Duke of Gloucester, and lodged in the Bishop of London's palace, where on the 4th of May, 1484, he received the oaths of fidelity from the principal nobility, and Gloucester was made protector of the King and kingdom; who having thus got the young King in his power, obliged the Queen to deliver up to him the Duke of York also, and then sent them both to the Tower, under a pretence of preparing for the coronation; the Tower at that time being a royal palace, from which the procession at coronations was usually made to Westminster. Mean while the Duke of Gloucester, by the assistance of Stafford Duke of Buckingham, Sir John Shaw Lord Mayor of London, and Dr. Shaw his brother, had his two nephews and even the late King declared illegitimate, and himself acknowledged King of England, pretending at the same time to accept the crown with reluctance, and only for the public good; though to produce this revolution he had put to death Lord Hastings, who was strongly attached to the young King, and too honest to give into his wicked schemes.

As

As Lord Hastings was greatly beloved by the people, the Duke of Gloucester found himself under the necessity of making an apology to the Lord-Mayor and citizens for thus putting him to death; and in extenuation of the crime he alledged that the ambition of Hastings had endangered the safety of the kingdom; tho' in fact he was arrested in council only on a ridiculous trumped-up charge of sorcery. The Queen, and the beautiful but unhappy Jane Shore were accused as his colleagues, and Shore was taken into custody, but was soon after released on doing penance, for her only crime was incontinence.

Richard's first care was to dispatch the young Prince; and Sir Robert Brackenbury, Lieutenant of the Tower, refusing to comply with his cruel designs, he for one night only gave the command of the Tower to Sir James Tyrrell, and he procured two villains, who in the dead time of night entered the chamber where the Princes lay, and smothered them in bed. After which they were buried under the stair case, where their bones were discovered 191 years afterwards, and by order of King Charles II. deposited amongst the remains of our sovereigns in Westminster-Abbey, and a small monument erected to their memory in Henry VII's chapel.

The reader will observe that the tyrant Richard, his tool Buckingham, and the other murderers, were soon after overtaken by the arm of the Almighty.

XVIII. RICHARD *the* THIRD,
from 1483 to 1485.

RICHARD, with deep hypocrisy endu'd,
Ambitious, cruel, destitute of good,
Did public praise obtain by wholesome laws,
And bravely fell, had virtue been the cause.

His C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

King of France.

<i>Sixtus IV.</i>	1471	<i>Charles VIII.</i>	1483
<i>Innocent VIII.</i>	1484		

Emperor of the West.

King of Scotland.

<i>Frederic IV.</i>	1440	<i>James III.</i>	1460
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RICHARD, the brother of King Edward IV. and the uncle and murderer of King Edward V. was proclaimed King on the 20th of June 1483, but was not crowned till the 6th of July. He was now in the 32d year of his age, and as he had waded to the throne through injustice and violence, he now endeavoured, after the death of the young Princes, to gain the favour of the nation by popular laws. However, though he had promised the duchy of Hereford to the Duke of Buckingham, his chief instrument, on his being seated on the throne, he refused to perform that promise. At this Buckingham being exasperated, left the court, and entered into a confederacy with the Earl of Richmond who was still in Brittany, where his mother informed him of what had happened in England, and desired he would speedily land in Wales. Mean while the King suspected a conspiracy, and sent for Buckingham to court, who refusing to obey the summons immediately collected his forces in Wales, and began to march towards the western counties; but the Severn rising with a great inundation he was unable to

pass that river, and his army dispersed and left him only with a single servant. In this melancholy situation he retired into Shropshire and sheltered himself in the house of Ralph Banister, who had been his servant and received many favours from him, but the King offering 1000*l.* reward for taking of him, Banister villainously betrayed his master, who was beheaded at Shrewsbury without any legal process.

King Richard at length heard that the Duke of Brittany resolved to support the Earl of Richmond, and therefore provided a fleet to defend the coasts. The Earl, however, set sail with forty ships and 5000 men, but his fleet being dispersed in a storm, he was obliged to return. Upon this Richard cruelly sacrificed all whom he suspected to favour the Earl, concluded an alliance with the Scots, and even corrupted the Duke of Brittany's treasurer, whom he engaged to destroy Richmond, but he saved himself by escaping into France, where he found many of the English nobility who offered him their assistance.

As Henry had solemnly engaged to marry Elizabeth the eldest daughter of Edward IV. Richard poisoned his own wife, and then endeavoured without effect to prevail on the young Princess his niece to accept him for her husband. Mean while Henry landing at Milford-Haven with only 2000 men, immediately began his march towards Shrewsbury, and was joined by many of the nobility with all the forces they could raise. At length both armies met at Bosworth, the King having 13,000 men, and the Earl only 5000. The engagement was hot and doubtful till the Lord Stanley and his brother joined

joined the Earl with fresh troops, when Richmond soon obtained the victory, in which King Richard lost his life ; and the crown being found in the field of battle, was placed on Henry's head. Richard's body was after the battle found entirely naked, covered with blood and dirt, and being thrown across a horse and conveyed to Leicester, was interred without the least ceremony, and his stone coffin was afterwards made use of as a drinking trough for horses at a public inn.

Thus fell Richard on the 22d of August 1485, in the 34th year of his age, and the 3d of his reign. He was from his deformity surnamed Crook-back, and one of his arms was almost withered. But notwithstanding his treachery and cruelty, he had a solid judgment, and was naturally brave.

The battle of Bosworth was the thirteenth during the civil wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, which continued thirty years, and robbed the nation of most of the nobility, and near 150,000 common men. Richard left no other issue but one natural son, who from an eminence surveyed in disguise the field of battle, and perceiving his father's fate made the best of his way to London, and put himself apprentice to a bricklayer, which business he occupied to his death *.

* See Beck's *Desiderata curiosa*.

XIX. HENRY *the SEVENTH,*
from 1485 to 1509.



**The first of Tudor's race, of high renown,
Spite of pretenders held the English crown ;
Subtle, profound, his projects tended still
To fix his empire and his coffers fill.**

S E C T. III.

The Union of the Houses of York and Lancaster.

C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

<i>Innocent VIII.</i>	1484
<i>Alexander VI.</i>	1492
<i>Pius III.</i>	1503
<i>Julius II.</i>	1503

Kings of France.

<i>Charles VIII.</i>	1483
<i>Lewis XII.</i>	1498

Emperors of the West.

<i>Frederic IV.</i>	1440
<i>Maximilian I.</i>	1493

Kings of Scotland.

<i>James III.</i>	1460
<i>James IV.</i>	1489

HENRY, having defeated King Richard, was crowned at Westminster on the 30th of October 1485, and the next year married the Lady Elizabeth the eldest daughter of King Edward IV. by which means the two houses of York and Lancaster became united. However, the house of York procured one Lambert Simnel, a young student of Oxford, to pretend that he was the son of the Duke of Clarence, brother to King Edward IV. but after being crowned King in several places, he was defeated and taken prisoner; nevertheless the King spared his life, and made him first turnspit in his kitchen, and afterwards his falconer.

Soon after Margaret Dutchess of Burgundy, a Princess of the house of York, introduced another Pretender named Perkin Warbeck, who personated

ated Richard Duke of York, Edward V.'s brother, who was smothered with that Prince in the Tower, and whom she had instructed how to act his part. This adventurer attempted to land in Kent with a few followers ; but several of his adherents being taken and executed, he fled to Ireland, and from thence to Scotland, where he married the Earl of Huntly's daughter, and was twice sent with an army into England by the King of Scotland ; but being both times defeated, was obliged to retire into Cornwall, where he raised an army with which he laid siege to Exeter ; but the King's forces advancing, he fled again, when his wife being taken, a pension was assigned her on account of her family and beauty. Perkin after being some time concealed, surrendered himself, and was committed to the Tower, whence he made his escape ; but was again taken, and being afterwards detected in endeavouring to corrupt his keepers, was at length hanged. Henry also, for his own security, caused the Earl of Warwick the Duke of Clarence's son, whom Simnel had personated, and who had been confined in the Tower from his infancy, to be beheaded.

King Henry married his eldest son Arthur to Catharine the daughter of Ferdinand King of Spain, and his daughter Margaret to James King of Scotland ; when England being blessed with tranquillity, he oppressed his subjects by his insatiable avarice, and was continually making use of new means to heap up riches for which he had no use : for this purpose he employed Sir Richard Empson and Edmund Dudley, two lawyers, who caused many wealthy persons to be indicted for
several

several crimes, and then obliged them to compound with the King; they also, without the form of law, condemned people to pay large fines without calling any juries, and when they were called, they were obliged to act as these execrable judges directed. By these shameful proceedings the King amassed 1,800,000 *l.* sterling, which was more than double the value in our present money; a pound of gold being then coined into 20 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.* which is now coined into 48 *l.*

As King Henry had received an hundred thousand crowns as part of the portion of the Princess Catharine, he was so unwilling to return it on Arthur's dying five months after his marriage, and, as it is said, without consummation, that he prevailed on the King of Spain to marry her to his second son Henry the Prince of Wales, for which a dispensation was procured from the Pope.

At length Henry grew so absolute, that no man durst oppose his will. He had heaped up great treasures; but a little before his death, ordered by his will, that his heirs should restore what his officers and ministers had unjustly taken from his subjects. He died at Richmond in Surry on the 22d of April 1509, in the 53d year of his age and the 24th of his reign, and was interred in his own new chapel at Westminster. Both the chapel and his monument are exquisite pieces of workmanship.

Henry exceeded the common stature, was strait-limbed, but slender, and had a handsome person. In the year 1487 he instituted the Star-Chamber, under the pretence that the channels

of Justice were corrupted. In this court the Chancellor, Treasurers, and Keeper of the Privy Seal, with a Bishop, a Lord of the Council, and two Judges, were impowered summarily to punish persons for misdemeanors : A power that threw down the sacred barrier of juries, and was intirely inconsistent with liberty. However, many excellent laws were made during his reign. He advanced the conditions of the middling people by causing farms to be so lett that the Husbandman might live independent and enjoy the fruits of his labour. He promoted commerce, and sent Sebastian Cabot to make new discoveries in America. Justice was well administered except where he was a party ; and he was formidable to his subjects, but never obtained their love.

In the first year of his reign the sweating sickness first broke out, and swept off great numbers throughout the whole kingdom. In the ninth year of his reign Joan Boughton, a widow, was burnt in Smithfield for professing the opinions of Wickliffe. In his 15th year was a great plague, of which 30,000 died in London. In his 17th year three Americans were brought into England by Sebastian Cabot. In his 18th, that superb building adjoining to Westminster-Abbey was erected, which we call Henry the VII's chapel. In his 22d, the sweating sickness returned, but as a cure was then known, few died of it. In this reign wheat sold for four shillings a quarter, and French wine for forty shillings a tun.

XX. HENRY the EIGHTH,

from 1509 to 1547.



HENRY, of haughty mind and sturdy mien,
 With fury reign'd, and often chang'd his queen;
 Disown'd the Pope, yet kept us papists still,
 And burn'd both sides, who dar'd contest his will.

His C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

<i>Julius II.</i>	1503
<i>Leo X.</i>	1513
<i>Adrian VI.</i>	1522
<i>Clement VII.</i>	1523
<i>Paul III.</i>	1534

Kings of France.

<i>Lewis XII.</i>	1498
<i>Francis I.</i>	1515

Kings and Queen of Scotland.

Emperors.		<i>James IV.</i>	1488
<i>Maximilian I.</i>	1493	<i>James V.</i>	1513
<i>Charles V.</i>	1519	<i>Mary</i>	1543

HENRY VIII. was born at Greenwich on the 28th of June 1491, and succeeded his father Henry VII. on the 22d of April 1509, in the 18th year of his age. He was at first designed for an ecclesiastic, and therefore acquired great learning. He redressed the grievances of the former reign, put Empson and Dudley to death, and wrote a book against Luther; on which the Pope conferred on him and his successors the title of *Defender of the Faith*. Soon after his accession he passed over into France, and took Terouenne, Tournay, and some other places, into which he put English garrisons, and in this war he had the honour to have the Emperor Maximilian serve under him in person, and gained the famous battle of the Spurs, fought on the 18th of August 1513. This battle was so called because the French in that engagement made more use of their spurs than their swords. Henry then besieged Tournay, which he reduced in a week,

week, though it contained 80,000 inhabitants, and though the gates bore this inscription, *Thou hast never lost thy virginity*. In the mean time the Scots invaded England with an army commanded by the Lord Hume, but being repulsed, King James came in person with a numerous force, but was defeated by Howard Earl of Surry, at the famous battle of Flodden-field, in which King James, with one Archbishop, two Bishops, four Abbots, twelve Earls, seventeen Barons, and 9000 common soldiers were slain; the English losing about 4000 men, without any person of distinction.

In this reign Thomas Wolsey, the son of a butcher at Ipswich, arose to great power, and from being a common priest was at length raised to the See of York, the dignity of a Cardinal, and the post of Lord High Chancellor of England, when he had in a manner the sole government of the kingdom; for peace being established, Henry devoted himself entirely to his pleasures. The Emperor Charles V. came into England and was magnificently entertained by Henry, and concerted with him measures for a new war with Francis I. King of France, with whom that Prince was in continual enmity. In the wars that followed, the part Henry favoured was most successful, but he behaved with such art that he would suffer neither of those Princes to overthrow the balance of Europe.

Wolsey's pride increased with his riches, and this he carried to such a height, that he caused the Duke of Buckingham to be beheaded for saying, "That if the King died without heirs, he thought he had a right to the throne;"

but the real cause of his death was his affronting the Cardinal by pouring a little water into his shoes, when he had the impudence to dip his hands in the basin while the Duke held it to the King to wash. With this nobleman ceased the great post of Lord High Constable of England.

After King Henry had lived eighteen years in perfect harmony with Queen Catharine, he suddenly started a scruple, on her having been first married to his brother * Arthur, and on that pretence resolved to have her divorced; but his chief reason was thought to be his having conceived a violent passion for Anna Bullen. This affair was committed to the management of Cardinal Wolsey, who at first readily strove to oblige the King; but the Emperor promising Wolsey the triple crown, prevailed on him to protract the affair; when Henry being exasperated, Cranmer a priest was recommended to him for the purity of his life, the simplicity of his manners, and for his being of the King's opinion as to the illegality of the marriage, and thus became his favourite in the room of Wolsey. On which the Cardinal was not only disappointed of the papacy, but arrested by the Earl of Northumberland for High Treason, when he was so concerned to think he was going to appear as a criminal in London, where he had commanded with almost a sovereign authority, that it threw him into a fit of illness, of which he died at Leicester, and is said to have uttered these remarkable words in his last moments: "If I had served ~~my~~ God as faithfully as I have served my King, he would not have forsaken me in my old age."

* See the preceding reign.

Catharine being at length divorced, Henry married Anna Bullen on the 14th of November, 1532, and she was crowned on the first of June, 1533. By the former he had Mary who was the scourge of England, and by the latter he had Elizabeth who was the glory of her country. The Pope now threatened to excommunicate Henry, at which both he and the parliament were so exasperated, that in 1534 they passed an act for abolishing the papal authority in England. Henry, however, was still a papist, and far from being the protector of the protestants *. And tho' the church of Rome was persecuted, the reformation was not likely to be perfected during his reign. The parliament having thus acknowledged the King supreme head of the church, declared that the Pope had no more jurisdiction than any other Bishop; when John Fisher Bishop of Rochester, and the learned Sir Thomas More were beheaded, for refusing to acknowledge the King's supremacy. He also put to death several priors and monks, and even cruelly caused those to be burnt who would have carried the reformation farther than he intended. Saxton Bishop of Salisbury however obtained his pardon by abjuring his pretended heresy, while several persons, and particularly Mrs. Anne Askew, shewed him a noble example how to suffer death for the sake of religion.

Henry was then excommunicated, and his subjects absolved from their oath of allegiance; upon

* The Emperor having in 1529 published the edict of Spires, ordering that no innovation should be made in religion, several of the German Princes entered a protestation against that decree, from whence the name of Protestants was given to the Reformed.

which

which the King suppressed the monasteries, and seized the revenues and treasures belonging to them. His vigorous proceedings occasioned several dangerous insurrections, which however were soon suppressed.

The number of monasteries abolished in this and the following reign amounted to 653, besides 90 colleges, 2374 chantries and free chapels, and 110 hospitals, which, before their suppression were valued at 152,517 l. 18 s. 10 d. according to Stevens; but the real value is supposed to be 1,600,000 l. and the lands and revenues belonging to them were worth more than thirty millions of the present money. Out of a small part of the spoils of these monasteries King Henry founded the Bishopricks of Bristol, Chester, Oxford, Gloucester, and Peterborough.

Queen Anna Bullen, who favoured the reformation, lived with the King only till she had borne the Princess Elizabeth. Soon after which she was cruelly beheaded with some of her relations and domestics, on a charge of incontinency, of which there is the greatest reason to believe her innocent. Henry then married Jane Seymour, who died in childbed of Prince Edward, when it being impossible to save both, he was asked which should be spared, the mother or the child: he replied, "that he could easily procure another wife, but was not sure that he should have another son." He next married Anne of Cleves, whom he soon divorced, and then beheaded; as he did Thomas Lord Cromwell (who had been raised for his merit from being the son of a Blacksmith to the rank of

Vicar

Vicar General of England) for promoting that match ; which Cromwell hoped would have advanced the reformation. His fifth wife Catharine Howard was, like Anna Bullen, beheaded for adultery ; and Dereham, Mannock and Culpepper, confessing that they had often lain with her, were all three beheaded. But Catharine Parr, his last wife, had the happiness to survive him. She was the relict of the Lord Latimer, was handsome, and by her behaviour gained universal esteem, but her embracing Luther's doctrine had like to have cost her her life.

Towards the end of his reign he made fresh invasions both in Scotland and France, when the most considerable action in the former was the taking of Leith, and in the latter, the reduction of Bologne. However, during the expedition into France, the Scots ravaged the borders of England, and defeated an English army; soon after which he died in the night between the 28th and 29th of January 1547, in the 57th year of his age, and the 38th of his reign, and was interred at Windsor.

King Henry was very handsome and expert in all bodily exercises. He was brave without ostentation, of a frank and ingenuous temper, and as liberal as his father was avaritious. Yet was extremely wicked, arbitrary, cruel, and made an ill use of the excessive power he acquired over his subjects. He was always stern and severe, but much more so towards the latter end of his life. His prodigious corpulency at length rendered him almost unable to stir, and an old sore in his leg, which was very painful, made him so froward and untractable that no
body

body could approach him without fear. And this was not only the case with his domestics, but of the parliament likewise, who through his reign acted the part of pusillanimous slaves while he was playing the tyrant.

During this reign the bible was translated into the English language, and the parliament suppressed the order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who are now called Knights of Malta. The sweating sickness broke out twice during this reign, which carried off a great number of people, and in his 13th year England was afflicted with the plague. About the 15th year of his reign several new things were introduced into England, which occasioned the following verse.

*Turkeys, carps, hops and beer,
Came into England all in one year.*

For before this time, the English drank no other malt liquor but ale, into which was put ground-ivy instead of hops. In his 19th year was a great scarcity of corn, the ill consequences of which were prevented by Henry's bounty. In the 23d year of his reign, Richard Rice a cook was boiled to death in Smithfield for poisoning several persons. About this time the public stews, which had long been allowed by the state, were suppressed. In his 35th year cast iron ordnance were first made at Buckstead in Suffex. The next year the plague again broke out in London, and in his 37th year William Fordey, pot-maker to the mint, slept fourteen days and nights, though all means were tried in vain to wake him. In this reign the government of the president of the North was instituted.

XXI. EDWARD

XXI. EDWARD *the* SIXTH,
from 1547 to 1553.



EDWARD was learn'd, meek, pious, just and sage,
A man in council, tho' a child in age ;
He laid the basis of the church we boast,
But by his uncle's quarrels oft was crost.

C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

King of France.

Paul III.

1534

Henry II.

1547

Julius III.

1550

Emperor.

Queen of Scotland.

Charles V.

1519

Mary

1542

EDWARD, the only son of King Henry VIII. and Jane Seymour, ascended the throne at nine years of age, when he was already well skilled in the Latin and French tongues, and had acquired some knowledge of the Greek, Italian and Spanish, and was committed to the care of sixteen persons, whom Henry had nominated Regents of the kingdom and governors of his son, the chief of whom was the Earl of Hertford, the King's uncle by the mother's side, who was soon after made Duke of Somerset, and was protector to the young King.

Henry left the reformation very imperfect, but the Protector and his friends, assisted by archbishop Cranmer and several other wise and learned prelates, made use of this opportunity to improve it.

The young Queen of Scotland was now demanded in marriage for King Edward, but the same proposal being made by France in behalf of the Dauphin, she was sent into that kingdom, on which the Duke of Somerset invaded Scotland, routed the Scots army at Mussleburgh, and though

the Duke's army amounted only to 18,000 men, and the Scots army to 30,000, the Scots were defeated with the loss of 14,000 killed, and 1500 prisoners, of whom 800 were gentlemen; and what is surprizing, the English are said to have lost only 51 horsemen and one foot-soldier. After this victory the English entered Edinburgh without opposition, and burnt several sea-port towns with all the ships in the harbours.

Private masses were now laid aside; the cup in the communion was given to the laity; the book of homilies was composed by Archbishop Cranmer; prayers were read in English, and the worship of images abolished. However, Joan Bocker, embracing the opinions of the German Baptists, was burnt as an heretic; but the young King set his hand to the warrant with tears in his eyes, telling Archbishop Cranmer, That if he did wrong, since it was in submission to his authority, he should answer to God for it.

These alterations however occasioned great disturbances. One Ket, a tanner, raised an insurrection in Norfolk, and having assembled 20,000 men, defeated the Marquis of Northampton, who had been sent against him with 11,000, and drove him from Norwich; but being afterwards attacked by John Dudley Earl of Warwick, at the head of a considerable body of forces, Ket was defeated, and afterwards hanged at Norwich. Several other insurrections were suppressed in different parts of the kingdom, by a proclamation for a general pardon.

The Duke of Somerset's great power raised him many enemies, the chief of whom was his brother,

ther, Thomas Lord Seymour; but articles of accusation being exhibited against him, he was attainted in Parliament, and without an open trial condemned and beheaded, though he was uncle to the King, and enjoyed the post of Lord High Admiral of England. This is not the only time that plots against ministers have been deem'd high treason. This crime however did not escape without its punishment, for several of the nobility combining against the protector, he was committed to the Tower, but begging the King's pardon, was again restored to favour; on which he married his daughter to the son of the Earl of Warwick, his most inveterate enemy, whom he now caused to be made Lord High Admiral; but notwithstanding this political step, the Duke of Somerset was soon after impeached, and charged with forming a design to seize the King and to imprison the Earl of Warwick, which was both felony and treason, and though he was acquitted of treason, he was condemned for felony, and the young King being with great difficulty prevailed on to sign the sentence, he was executed some time after; when the people, by whom he was greatly beloved, were so generally persuaded of his innocence, that many of them dipped their handkerchiefs in his blood, and considered him as a kind of martyr. One of which handkerchiefs was afterwards shewn to his enemy the Earl of Warwick as he was carried to the Tower, for he also fell a victim to his own ambitious schemes. The Earl of Warwick, now Duke of Northumberland, succeeded to the Earl of Somerset's power, and at length (on the King's
being

being taken ill of the meazles) married the Lord Guildford Dudley, his fourth son, to the Lady Jane Grey, eldest daughter to the Duke of Suffolk, and persuaded Edward to settle the crown on her, his sisters Mary and Elizabeth having been both declared illegitimate during the life-time of their father; and the Prince, hoping to save the reformation from impending destruction, appointed her his successor, and soon after died on the 6th of July 1553, in the 16th year of his age, and the 7th of his reign. He was interred in Westminster-Abbey, where a curious monument was erected to his memory, which was afterwards destroyed in the civil wars.

Edward's person was very beautiful. He had a lively disposition and great sweetness of temper. His discretion was far above his years. He was well acquainted with the principles of trade; attended to the commercial interests of the nation; and was remarkable for his virtue, piety, and humanity. He founded Christ's Hospital, St. Thomas's, and Bridewell.

In April 1551, the sweating sickness began at Shrewsbury, and was peculiar to the English nation; for foreigners were not seized with it in England, and Englishmen only were afflicted with it in other countries. It fell chiefly upon young people of a strong constitution; and whoever was seized with it died or recovered within nine or ten hours at most. If the person took cold he died within three hours; and if he slept within six hours he generally died raving.

XXII. MARY *the* FIRST,
from 1553 to 1558.



When bloody MARY fill'd the English throne,
The good her brother did was soon undone,
Through her short reign, though much too long,
was seen
A wretched bigot, and a cruel Queen.

Her C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.		King of France.	
<i>Julius III.</i>	1550	<i>Henry II.</i>	1542
<i>Marcellus II.</i>	1555		
<i>Paul IV.</i>	1555		
Emperor.		Queen of Scotland.	
<i>Charles V.</i>	1519	<i>Mary</i>	1542

THE Duke of Northumberland kept the death of the young King for some time concealed, and when the Lady Jane, who was distinguished both by her beauty, her virtue, and her perfectly understanding the Greek, Latin, and French languages, was informed of the settlement which her cousin Edward had made of the crown, she was extremely surprized, and instead of receiving it with joy, told her father, That she would not enrich herself by the spoils of others; but the importunity of her friends at length prevailed with her to receive the offered ensigns of royalty, and she was proclaimed at London with the usual formalities. In the mean time the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk declared for Mary, and furnished her with troops, on her promising to leave religion in the same state she found it. The Duke of Northumberland marched from London at the head of a small army to oppose them; but being deserted by his troops, he endeavoured to save himself by declaring for

Mary. And in Cambridge Market-place, he proclaimed her Queen, and flinging his own hat up in the air, cried out, God save Queen Mary; which artifice, however, did not save him from the scaffold. The Duke of Suffolk was then ordered by the Council to deliver up the Tower, and the Lady Jane Grey to quit the title of Queen and resign her pretensions. Thus this accomplished Lady found herself stript of her dignity, which she had held but nine days, and descended to her former rank with the appearance of more joy than she had shewn on being invested with royalty.

Mary was now determined to sacrifice to her safety or vengeance some of those whom she considered as her principal enemies, particularly the Lady Jane Grey, and Lord Guilford Dudley her husband, the Marquis of Northampton, and Ridley Bishop of London, who were sent to the Tower. The Duke of Northumberland, with several other noblemen and persons of distinction were soon after tried for high treason and executed, though the Duke of Suffolk was set at liberty; and notwithstanding Cranmer had saved Mary's life, by interceding for her with her father, who intended to put her to death, he was now marked out for destruction. The Duke of Northumberland was so pusillanimous as to petition for his life, and professed himself a Roman-Catholic in hopes of obtaining mercy; but he who had destroyed the Duke of Somerset was now overtaken, and shared the punishment he had inflicted on others.

Queen

Queen Mary was crowned on the first of October 1553, and immediately endeavoured to abolish the Protestant religion. She soon after married Philip II. King of Spain, and openly declaring for Popery, for restoring the mass, and depriving the Protestant Bishops, whence the nation became filled with discontents; an insurrection in Kent was raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, who marched to London, was taken prisoner, and soon after beheaded; and the Duke of Suffolk endeavouring to raise forces in Warwickshire, was betrayed and sent prisoner to London, where, not only that Duke, but his daughter the Lady Jane Grey, and the Lord Guilford Dudley his son-in-law, were beheaded.

Persecution for religion was now carried to the most terrible height; and though the majority of the people were Protestants, Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer and Ferrar, with some hundreds of other persons of different ranks and both sexes, were cruelly burnt alive, and all the prisons in England crowded with those who preferred the sacred dictates of conscience to all other considerations.

It may be proper to observe, that Cranmer, who had so eminently distinguished himself in the glorious cause of the reformation, weakly recanted on his being condemned to the flames. When this not being sufficient to save his life, he discovered the sincerity of his repentance, and his shame for his former weakness, by his steadily holding out the hand, which had signed his recantation, in the flames till it was almost consumed, crying with a loud voice, *This hand*

has offended! and often repeating, *This unworthy right hand!*

In these bloody proceedings Bonner Bishop of London, and Gardiner Bishop of Winchester, distinguished themselves by their savage zeal for Popery.

Mean while the Princess Elizabeth was closely watched and obliged to dissemble her religious sentiments; and her answer to Gardiner, who put the dangerous question concerning these words of Christ, *This is my body*, was full of caution, and a proof of her wit and good sense.

*Christ was the Word that spake it ;
He took the bread and brake it :
And what the Word did make it,
That I believe, and take it.*

The people of England were greatly disgusted at the behaviour of Philip, who soon after his arrival declared war against France, and obtained a supply of 8000 English, by whose assistance the French were defeated at the battle of St. Quintin, but they soon after took Calais, which was the only strong place the English had left in France. Philip had before been greatly disgusted with the Queen, for falsely imagining herself with child, and this, added to the loss of Calais,* threw her into an ill state of health; and while

* The Queen was so much affected with the loss of Calais, that she for a while forgot the persecution of the Protestants, and frequently cried out, *The loss of Calais was written on her Heart, and might be read there when her Body was opened.*

the people saw nothing but cruelty in the Council, poverty in the Exchequer, pride in the Court, dissension at home, and contempt abroad, Mary, who had been long afflicted with the dropsy, died at St. James's on the 17th of November 1558, in the 43d year of her age, after a reign of five years, four months, and eleven days, and was interred with great pomp in King Henry the VIIth's chapel at Westminster.

This Queen, though not deformed, was far from being beautiful. She was of a gloomy temper, and her bigotry was so excessive, that barbarity towards the Protestants was the only quality that could recommend a man to the episcopal dignity; so that the practice of piety became the trade of murder; and Dr. Heylen says, That her persecution was more terrible than any that had raged since the time of Dioclesian. The only action worthy of applause, was her rejecting a project formed by the Spanish Ambassador, for making herself absolute at the expence of the laws and liberties of England.

In the first year of her reign the Great Harry, the largest man of war in England, being of 1000 tons burden, was burnt at Woolwich by the negligence of the mariners. In 1557 corn was so scarce that wheat was sold at 2l. 13s. 4d. per quarter, malt at 2l. 4s. and pease at 2l. 6s. 8d. but the next harvest was so plentiful, that wheat sold at 5s. malt at 6s. 8d. and rye at 3s. 4d.

XXIII. ELIZABETH,
from 1558 to 1603.



The fam'd ELIZA's long and glorious reign,
Quell'd Romish superstition, humbled Spain;
Invasions, Plots, her genius soar'd above;
Bless'd in her servants; and her subjects love.

C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

<i>Paul IV.</i>	1555
<i>Pius IV.</i>	1559
<i>Pius V.</i>	1565
<i>Gregory XIII.</i>	1572
<i>Sixtus V.</i>	1585
<i>Urban VII.</i>	1590
<i>Gregory XIV.</i>	1590
<i>Innocent IX.</i>	1591
<i>Clement VIII.</i>	1592

Rodolphus II.

1576

Kings of France.

<i>Henry II.</i>	1547
<i>Francis II.</i>	1559
<i>Charles IX.</i>	1560
<i>Henry III.</i>	1574
<i>Henry IV.</i>	1589

Emperors.

Queen and King of
Scotland.

<i>Ferdinand I.</i>	1558	<i>Mary.</i>	1542
<i>Maximilian II.</i>	1564	<i>James VI.</i>	1567

ELIZABETH was proclaimed Queen the same day her sister died, she being called from a kind of imprisonment to the Throne, and several acts were soon passed for restoring her to her right of supremacy, and establishing the reformation, when only 14 Bishops, and 12 Archdeacons, 50 Canons, and 80 Parish Priests, out of 9400 beneficed Clergymen in the Kingdom, chose to quit their preferments rather than their religion. The House of Commons addressing the Queen to marry, she replied, that *by the ceremony of her Inauguration she was married to her people, and that when she died, she should be well contented that the marble should say to posterity:*
Here

Here lies a Queen, who reigned so long, and lived and died a Virgin.

In the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign, she was disturbed by the Scots, who were supported by France, and the Dauphin having married Mary Queen of Scotland, they assumed the title of King and Queen of Scotland, England, and Ireland, and quartered their arms accordingly. Elizabeth loudly complained of this usurpation, and as the reformation was begun both in France and Scotland, she, by supporting the Protestants in each kingdom, prevented her own from invasions.

Mary becoming a widow, by the death of Francis II. King of France and Scotland, she quitted the title of Queen of England, and returned to her own kingdom, where the reformation making great advances, she was involved in many difficulties: she then married her cousin Henry Stuart Lord Darnley, but being accused of many familiarities with her favourite Rizzio, her new husband became jealous, on which the Earl of Moreton, and some others wounded Rizzio in the Queen's presence, when she was advanced about five months in her pregnancy, and then drawing him into an outer room, completed the murder. Queen Mary now bestowed all her favours on the Earl of Bothwell, who murdered the King soon after her delivery of a Prince, who was afterwards James I. King of England, and a few months after the murder, that Earl married the Queen, with whom he was soon at variance, and treated her with the greatest brutality. Mary being now in danger of her life from the factions which were raised and the measures taken to destroy her; she fled to
England,

England, where she was imprisoned by Queen Elizabeth. The new-born Prince was immediately set on the throne of Scotland, and Mary, after eighteen years confinement, was tried, condemned, and beheaded, for a conspiracy carried on in her favour.

Mean while the Protestants increasing in France, Queen Elizabeth was put in possession of Havre de Grace to enable her to send them supplies; and tho' that town was soon taken by the French King, she continued to assist the reformers, and to establish the religion and trade of her own subjects. After this several provinces in the Low Countries, being oppressed by the persecutions and exactions of the Spanish governors, shook off their allegiance to Spain, and behaved with great bravery in the defence of their religious and civil liberties under the conduct of the Prince of Orange; but he being murdered by a Romish emissary, the seven states who formed the Union were reduced to the greatest distress, and implored the assistance of Queen Elizabeth, whom they even offered to acknowledge as their sovereign; but tho' she declined this proposal, she supplied them with men and money, and sent over the Earl of Leicester, to command her and their forces; but the Dutch disapproving of his conduct, he was re-called into England.

Philip II. King of Spain being exasperated at the assistance Elizabeth his sister-in-law had given the Dutch, tho' he had before sought her in marriage, now formed the design of dethroning her, and for that purpose prepared a prodigious fleet, which, from the benediction of the Pope,

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was called the Invincible Armada, but that fleet having entered the Channel, was bravely and successfully attacked by Elizabeth's Admirals. The Lord Admiral was at Plymouth when the Spanish fleet arrived off the English coast; and immediately putting to sea came up with the Spaniards in the Channel, on the 21st of July 1588, when, after a bloody engagement, the English Admiral convinced the seamen, that the dreadful apprehensions they had entertained of the large Spanish ships were groundless. The action was renewed on the 23d, when a sharp engagement ensued off Portland. A running fight was continued the next day; and on the 25th another terrible encounter happened off the Isle of Wight. The Spaniards then bore down to the coast of Flanders with the hopes of being joined by the Duke of Parma, who was blocked up by the English and Dutch in the ports of Dunkirk and Newport; and the Spaniards were still pursued by the English, who, in the night of the 28th, sent eight fire-ships among the Spanish fleet, which had anchored off Calais. The Spaniards, filled with terror, then cut their cables, and to avoid being instantly consumed put to sea, and were pursued by the English, who took some of their ships, and drove the rest on the coast of Zealand; but the wind chopping about, they escaped, and returned home by sailing round Scotland and Ireland, in which attempt several of their ships were taken by the English, who pursued them as far as the frith of Edinburgh, and many of them were wrecked by tempests on the coast of Ireland. Thus Providence seconding the endeavours of our fleet, very few of that

Armada

Armada were able to get back into the ports of Spain. Lord Howard of Effingham, Sir Francis Drake*, Captain Hawkins, and Captain Forbisher, distinguished themselves on this occasion, and were her chief Commanders.

England was now filled with universal joy; Cities, Towns, Villages, and Churches ringing with shouts of victory. The Spaniards lost 32 capital ships, and according to some accounts 81 vessels large and small, with 13,500 men. Queen Elizabeth had drawn to the coast a considerable army in order to oppose the enemy, had they been able to have landed, and bravely appeared in person at the camp of Tilbury; and afterwards, in the medal she struck on this astonishing victory, she piously ascribed the glory of all to God.

When the shattered remains of this their great fleet were returned to Spain, the Queen boldly carried the war to their own coasts both in Europe and America.

She the next year sent a fleet of 100 sail under the command of Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Norris, who plundered the Groyne, and

* This Sir Francis Drake made a voyage round the World. He sailed from Plymouth in December 1577, and returned to that port in November 1580; when Queen Elizabeth dined on board his ship and snighted him, on which occasion a Winchester Scholar wrote the following lines on the main-mast :

Plus ultra Hercules inscribas, DRACE, Columnis;
Et magno, dicas, Hercule major ero.

Cambden.

being joined by the Earl of Essex, took Peniche; seized 60 ships in the Tagus, and destroyed Vigo. Yet tho' Elizabeth always kept a good fleet at sea, for fear Philip should attempt another invasion, her œconomy was so great, that with the usual revenues of the crown she found means to supply the expence of her household, pay the public debts, and assist her neighbours in their distress; which had never been done by any of her predecessors.

In 1591, the Spaniards made a descent in Cornwall, with four gallies, and burnt some villages; and in 1596 were preparing to invade England again with a numerous fleet, upon which the Queen, being determined to prevent them, fitted out a fleet of 150 sail, with 22 Dutch ships, under the command of the Lord Admiral Howard and the Earl of Essex; who had under them Sir Walter Raleigh, and Sir Francis Vere; when the Spanish fleet, which lay in the harbour of Cadiz, was defeated by Raleigh, who took four ships, and the rest, which consisted of 13 men of war, 11 ships freighted for the Indies, and 33 others, were burnt by the Spanish Admiral himself, after his having offered in vain to ransom them for two millions of ducats. The stores prepared against England were seized, the city plundered, and burnt to the ground, and the loss of the Spaniards was estimated at 20 millions of ducats. The English then burnt several villages along the coast, and returned to England with a prodigious booty. It was on this occasion that we meet with the first regular set of signals and orders to the commanders of the English fleet.

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The Earl of Essex was now declining in the Queen's favour, and her Majesty, proposing to send Sir William Knowles to settle affairs in Ireland, Essex opposed her with such an air of contempt, as provoked her to give him a box on the ear, when the Earl laying his hand on his sword, swore that he would not put up such an indignity, and that he would not have taken it from Henry VIII. himself, and instantly retired from Court, but was soon re-admitted to favour.

A rebellion breaking out in Ireland under the Earl of Tyrone, who had received supplies from Spain and Scotland, and assumed the title of King, the Queen sent over the Earl of Essex, whom she made Lord-Deputy of Ireland, at the head of an army of 20,000 men; but the Earl finding that his enemies preposessed the Queen against him, solicited in vain to return to England, and his uneasiness rendering him inactive, he suffered the Rebels to gain several advantages. At length having concluded a truce with Tyrone, he hastily left Ireland, and threw himself at the feet of the Queen, who was disconcerted at the sudden appearance of a man whom she respected and feared. She desired him to retire to his apartment, and he was there put under an arrest. After which Essex was censured for neglect of duty, and suspended from his employments; at which he was so exasperated, that he resolved to attempt a change in the ministry. He confined the privy Counsellors that were sent to him, and attended by two hundred followers, ill armed, rushed from Essex-house into the street, crying, *for the Queen! for the Queen! my life is in danger!*

but meeting with no encouragement from the citizens, he returned home by water, attended by his friends the Earls of Rutland and Southampton, who were all obliged to surrender themselves prisoners, and being tried and convicted, Essex was beheaded on the 25th of February 1601.

Mean time Charles Blount Lord Montjoy was sent into Ireland, where he at length entirely defeated Tyronne; who at last submitted and implored the Queen's mercy. Sir William Monson and Sir Richard Levison were then sent with a squadron against the Spaniards, and took a carracca valued at a million of crowns.

The remembrance of her lamented Essex drove Elizabeth almost to distraction, who, as she advanced in years, perceived her courtiers pay their address to the King of Scotland, as the rising sun; this threw her into a fit of melancholy, which occasioned her death, on the 24th of March 1603, in the 70th year of her age, and the 45th of her reign. She was interred in Henry VII's chapel. A little before her death she had appointed the King of Scotland her successor.

Her stature was somewhat tall, and her limbs strong. Her hair was inclining to red, and her complexion fair. Her voice was loud and shrill; yet she sung gracefully, and played well upon several instruments. She understood the Greek, Latin, French, Spanish, and Dutch languages; spoke all but the last with great fluency, and encouraged them at her Court; by which means her courtiers, Sir Philip Sidney, Burleigh, Essex and Southampton, revived the Augustan age, by each shewing himself a Mæcenæ either to Spencer, Shakespear, or Ben Jonhson. Her reign was remarkable

markable for the wisdom of her councils; the steadiness of her conduct; the success of her arms, and the fidelity of her subjects. William Cecil Lord Burleigh, Lord High Treasurer of England, and Sir Francis Walsingham Secretary of State, where the most celebrated of her Counsellors. And the last of these, tho' her Secretary for many years, died so poor that he was buried privately to save charges. The great Sir Walter Raleigh*, equally a deep politician and a brave adventurer, made several new discoveries in North-America, and Virginia obtained its name in honour of this Virgin Queen. In short her name became famous through the commerce of her subjects in Russia, Turkey, and the remotest parts of the East-Indies; and she was so sincerely beloved by her people, that the parliament never denied her any supplies, nor did her subjects ever complain of being taxed.

In 1563 the plague carried off 20,136 people within the city of London, and the eleven out-parishes. In 1567 the Royal-Exchange in Cornhill was erected at the expence of Sir Thomas Gresham. In 1580 an earthquake was felt throughout all England, which threw down part of the Temple Church in London. In 1593 the plague carried off 10,675 persons in London. In her reign tobacco was first brought into England, and gun-powder was first made in this kingdom.

* Sir Walter Raleigh chiefly at his own charge made two expeditions into America, with a design either to make himself master of Panama, or to intercept the rich Spanish fleet, but he was unsuccessful. However he discovered Virginia in 1585, from whence Drake the same year brought one Ralph Lane, who first introduced Tobacco into England.

XXIV. J A M E S *the* F I R S T,
from 1603 to 1625,



England's first Stuart, from the Scotian clime;
Learn'd, but pedantic; peaceful to a crime:
His weak, yet arbitrary acts, prepare
A scene of ills for his succeeding heir.

C H A P. VII.

*From the beginning of the reign of King James I.
in 1603, to the reign of King George II.*

S E C T. I.

The Family of the STUARTS.

C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

Clement VIII.	1592
Leo IX.	1605
Paul III.	1605
Gregory XV.	1621
Urban VIII.	1623

E M P E R O R S.

Rodolphus II.	1576
Matthias I.	1612
Ferdinand II.	1619
Kings of France.	
Henry IV.	1589
Lewis XIII.	1610

ON the death of Queen Elizabeth, James VI. of Scotland was the next heir to the Crown, he being descended from the eldest daughter of King Henry VII. and in him the Crown of England and Scotland were united. He arrived at London the 7th of May 1603, and though Elizabeth had been sparing in the distributing of honours, he, even before he was crowned, created more Knights, Barons and Earls than had been made in any former reign. A little before his Coronation, a ridiculous kind of conspiracy was said to be discovered in favour of his cousin-german, the Lady Arabella Stuart, who was intended to be raised to the Throne. The principal authors

authors of which were pretended to be, the Lords Wilton, Cobham, and Sir Walter Raleigh. For this four of the conspirators were executed, and the rest sent back to prison without a pardon. Lord Wilton died soon after; and Lord Cobham at last obtained his liberty; though he was stripped of 7000*l.* a year, and 30,000*l.* in money; but Sir Walter Raleigh remained in the Tower 12 years. King James and his Queen were crowned at Westminster on the 25th of July 1603. The next year he endeavoured to introduce the worship of the Church of England into Scotland, and immediately began to extend his royal prerogative, to which he set no bounds; and being extremely timorous himself, concluded a peace with Spain.

Nothing was now talked of but cultivating the arts of peace, and extending the blessings of commerce; for the national debt, which at the death of Queen Elizabeth was only 400,000*l.* already amounted to double that sum.

In 1605 the gunpowder-plot, intended to destroy both the King and Parliament, was discovered by means of an anonymous letter directed to the Lord Monteagle, which occasioning strict search to be made in a cellar under the Parliament-house, there were found 36 barrels of gunpowder, upon which were laid bars of iron, massy stones, &c. near to which was Guy Faux, one of the traitors, concealed with a dark lantern and three matches, who instantly confessed himself guilty; and he, together with Sir Everard Digby, Catesby, and several others, were executed for that execrable scheme. The next
year

year Christiern King of Denmark, and the Queen's brother, arrived in England, and were treated with great magnificence. After which Frederick Elector Palatine came to England, where he was married with great splendor to the King's daughter Elizabeth, from which marriage the present Royal Family are descended: the Princess Sophia, King George the first's mother, being the immediate issue of it. But in the midst of the court festivals, a little before this marriage, Prince Henry, the King's eldest son, who had been created Prince of Wales, and who was equally admired and beloved, was taken ill, and died soon after, in the 18th year of his age. It was generally believed that this excellent young Prince was poisoned, and the odium was thrown upon Rochester the royal favourite.

The King had a little before dissolved his Parliament, with a resolution never to call another. Lord Clarendon says, That of all men living James was most delighted with handsome persons and fine cloaths. He was always fond of some particular persons, who would sooth his vanities and partake in his follies; but as he was only taken with external accomplishments, neither virtue, merit, nor eminent abilities, had any charms for him. The principal of these favourites were Car Earl of Somerset, and afterwards the Duke of Buckingham; both of whom he raised from obscure families.

The great Sir Walter Raleigh, the glory of his country, had, as hath been already said, been thrown into prison for a ridiculous plot, and cruelly found guilty, though there was no legal

legal proof of guilt, for this he had been 14 years confined in the Tower, when he was discharged, and sent on an expedition in quest of a gold mine on the coast of Guiana; but after plundering the Spanish town of St. Thomas, he returned without effecting the discovery; when, to please the Count of Gondomer, the Spanish Ambassador, he was shamefully re-committed to the Tower, and beheaded upon his former sentence.

The Dutch, who owed their very existence as a free people to England, now despised James's power, and massacred the English at Amboyna, where they put the factory to death, and seized their effects*; for which insolent affront no reparation was obtained, till Cromwell made the Dutch pay 300,000*l.* upon that account.

While King James suffered the Palatine, who had married his daughter, to be oppressed by a branch of the House of Austria, he permitted his son Charles, now Prince of Wales, to go privately to Madrid with his favourite Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, in order to accelerate that Prince's marriage with the Infanta; a match that was most hateful to the English; but though they were magnificently entertained, the Prince returned without his bride. However, having gone by land through France, in his way to Spain, he saw the Princess Henrietta Maria,

* This, and other insults that were offered the English during the reign of this supine Monarch, occasioned the following epigram.

Under great King ELIZA the English were seen
As grand as now mean under JEMMY their Queen.
daughter

daughter to the French King Henry IV. whom he afterwards married, and as she was also a Papist, she established that religion in the family of the Stuarts. But while a dispensation was coming from the Pope for this marriage, King James died on the 27th of March 1625, in the 59th year of his age and the 23d of his reign over England, and was buried in Henry the seventh's Chapel in Westminster-Abbey.

Tho' King James's father and mother were esteemed the handsomest couple of the age, they lived in, yet he was altogether as homely. He was however called the Solomon of his age, tho' he made the great duties of the King subservient to the idle distinctions of the pedant. He affected the character of a pacific Monarch to such a degree, as to render both himself and the nation contemptible. His ignorance of the English constitution induced him to strain the royal prerogative, and his fondness for being thought learned made him write a book in defence of Arbitrary Power, on Witch-craft, the *heinous Sin of using Tobacco*, and other subjects, which have handed down his folly to posterity. His favourite diversion was hunting; and of this he was so fond, and so curious in his dogs, as to give rise to the following witty remark: *That if he had shewn as much sagacity in the choice of his ministers as in that of his bounds, it would have been happy for himself, his family, and his people.* He had, however, some virtues blended with his many vices, and he particularly promoted the commerce and manufactures of the kingdom.

In 1602, a dreadful pestilence happened in

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England, which carried off in one year 30,578 persons.

In 1606, Virginia, which had been discovered by the unhappy Sir Walter Raleigh in 1584, was now planted with an English colony, soon after which New-England and the Bermuda islands were made English plantations. In 1613 the town of Dorchester was entirely consumed by fire, except a few houses. The town of Stratford upon Avon was also burnt in this reign, and the sea overflowed a large tract of land in Norfolk and Lincolnshire. In 1614, the King committed to prison several members of the house of Commons, without admitting them to bail, which was the greatest violation of the privileges of Parliament ever known. And the same year Sir Hugh Middleton's noble, laborious, expensive scheme of bringing the New River from Ware to Islington was perfected. In this reign a new translation of the Bible was made, which version has been ever since in use, and the making of coarse paper was now first brought into England. King James instituted the order of Baronets. And in his reign rose and fell the justly celebrated Sir Francis Bacon, the greatest philosopher of that age. In the third parliament of this reign were formed two opposite parties, one for the court, and the other for the people; who from this time began to oppose each other upon all occasions, and continued their opposition in the succeeding reigns, under the denomination of high-church and low-church, whigs and tories, court-interest and country-interest, with great fury and resentment.

XXV: CHARLES the FIRST,

from 1625 to 1649.



Unhappy Prince, his fate atones his fault,
Not weak, but obstinate, and badly taught;
Our constitution, hurt by lawless deeds,
Is quite suspended when the Monarch bleeds.

His C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

POPES.		<i>Ferdinand III.</i>	1673
<i>Urban VIII.</i>	1623	Kings of France.	
<i>Innocent X.</i>	1644		
Emperors.		<i>Lewis XIII.</i>	1610
<i>Ferdinand II.</i>	1619	<i>Lewis XIV.</i>	1643

KING Charles was born at Dumferling in Scotland on the 19th of November 1600, and succeeded his father James I. in the 25th year of his age, but was not crown'd till the 2d of February 1626. He was tinctured from his infancy with his father's principles, relating to the royal prerogative; and as he had the same favourites, and the same council, there appeared little new but the person of the King. He began his reign with his marriage, and with forming two projects, equally difficult to be executed. The first was to reinstate his brother-in-law, the Elector Palatine, in his dominions, and the other to carry the regal authority even higher than it had been done by his father, or any of his predecessors: the Commons resolving to impeach the Duke of Buckingham, he sent for both houses to Whitehall, commended his conduct, and bad them remember that parliaments were altogether in his power for their calling, sitting, and dissolution; and therefore as he found them good or evil, they were to continue, or not to be, And the Commons afterwards continuing the impeachment,

peachment, Sir Dudley Diggs and Sir John Eliot, two of that body, were sent to the Tower for speaking disrespectfully of Buckingham.

King Charles soon after his marriage enter'd into a war with Spain, and sent a fleet against Cadiz, which after taking some Spanish ships returned home without reducing that city. However, resolving to carry on the war, and the exchequer being exhausted, he called a parliament, when the expected supplies not being granted, he had recourse to the arbitrary means of raising money without a parliament.

In this situation Charles declared war against France, and sent a fleet of above 100 ships, under the command of the Duke of Buckingham, to take possession of Rochelle, which was in the hands of the French protestants; but this expedition proved unsuccessful. The Rochellers, tho' they had refused any succours from the English, afterwards implored the King's assistance, on which he promised them under his own hand to send them a supply, and another fleet with fresh forces on board was immediately fitted out; but the Duke of Buckingham being murdered by Felton, nothing was performed, and Rochelle being obliged to surrender, the protestant interest was ruined in France, which was followed by a peace between England, France, and Spain.

After this another parliament being called, the King endeavoured to have the duty of tonnage and poundage, which had been only granted for certain purposes, put entirely into his hands; but instead of complying, the parliament called aloud for a redress of grievances, and ordered a list of

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them

them to the crown, on which the parliament was dissolved, when the ordinary revenues not being sufficient to support the expence of the crown, the ministers rigorously exacted the duty of tonnage and poundage, and among many other oppressive methods, raised money by granting monopolies, which were very numerous, and extended even to the sale of old rags. A general loan was proposed; and to oblige the people to lend their money, soldiers were billeted upon private houses, and several gentlemen were sent to prison for not subscribing to the loan. Several of the clergy were ordered to preach up the doctrines of passive obedience and non-resistance; but Dr. Manwarring, having the boldness to declare from the pulpit, that the King was not obliged to observe the laws, was fined 1000l. by the parliament, and rendered incapable of any office; on which the King rewarded him with a bishoprick.

Mean while Laud, bishop of London, carried on a very severe persecution against the Dissenters, and the King obtained several considerable sums by heavy fines imposed in a very arbitrary manner in the star-chamber: and particularly Pryn, Dr. Bastwick, and Mr. Burton, a lawyer, physician, and divine, were fined 5000l. each, lost their ears in the pillory, and were to be imprisoned for life, without ever seeing even their wives and children, for writing against Episcopacy. The Scots, on the other hand, were inflamed by an attempt to introduce among them the English liturgy, to which they were utterly averse. At length the King wanting money to
pro-

test the coast from pirates, a tax was raised upon the people under the pretence of maintaining a certain number of ships to guard the seas, which being imposed only by virtue of the prerogative, it was refused to be paid by several private persons, and particularly by John Hampden, Esq; who stood trial with the King, but was cast.

After a long disuse of parliaments, Charles was obliged to call one in 1640, which was composed out of the most able men in the kingdom; but when he asked for supplies, they vindicated the rights of the people; renewed the complaint of grievances; extorted a favourable declaration from the King, and even obliged him before they would grant his demands, to make the parliament perpetual, unless they consented to their dissolution. And this put the King entirely into their power.

Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, who was charged with being the author of many arbitrary proceedings, and who had engrossed the royal favours since the death of Buckingham, and had been his principal adviser, was pointed out for destruction; and Laud, who had been made Archbishop of Canterbury, and was obnoxious to the people from his persecuting spirit and from his being too tenacious of the ecclesiastical hierarchy, shared the same fate. They were both tried and beheaded, at some distance of time from each other. However, the populace, who severely felt the grievances they had suffered, sided with the parliament.

A rebellion broke out in Ireland, in which a dreadful massacre was made of the Protestants; there

there being no less than 150,000 of them put to death in cold blood by the Papists, who practised all the arts of cruelty and butchery on men, women and children, pretending that they acted by the King's authority. This therefore was also charged to the King's account, though he solemnly disclaimed it. The citizens of London taking part with the Parliament, and an outcry being raised against the Bishops, they were deprived of the privilege of sitting in the House of Lords. The King now put himself into the hands of a guard, and threw all things into a flame, by his rashly going with soldiers to the House of Commons to demand five of the members. Upon this the tumult ran high, and the King not thinking himself in security at Whitehall, retired to Hampton-court, and from thence into the North, when both sides began their preparations for war, and London immediately took up arms for the parliament: But the first act of hostility was the King's appearing before Hull, and summoning Sir John Hotham, the Governor, to surrender, which he absolutely refused. The Queen, who a little before had retired to Holland with the crown jewels, disposed of them to buy arms for the King, which arrived safe in Burlington Bay; while the Parliament borrowed 11,000,000*l.* of the people, who brought in their plate to complete the loan.

King Charles then setting up his standard at Nottingham, many of the nobility and gentry put themselves under his command. Mean while the Parliament raised forces, and made the

the Earl of Essex their General, and soon after a battle was fought near Edge-hill, in which each party claimed the victory, and about 5,000 men were killed on both sides; when the King, instead of continuing his march to London, proceeded to Oxford, and the Earl of Essex, instead of pursuing his Majesty, retired to Warwick.

The next year the Earls of Newcastle and Cumberland defeated Fairfax, General for the Parliament in the North, at Brownham-moor. The King's forces gained several other advantages the same year, but were defeated at the battle of Newbury, by the Earl of Essex, tho' King Charles himself commanded in person. In 1644, the King defeated Sir William Waller at Cropedy-bridge near Banbury, and pursuing the Earl of Essex to Lestwithiel in Cornwall, so hemmed him in, that he was obliged to make his escape by sea. His cavalry, however, cut their way through the King's army; but all his infantry were made prisoners. However, upon swearing never more to bear arms against the King, they were dismissed; but though the King was thus successful in the West of England, his forces in the North were, through the imprudence of Prince Rupert, entirely routed at Marston-moor, and the King engaging with Essex again at Newbury, was obliged to retreat with considerable loss.

The next winter a treaty was set on foot at Uxbridge; but when the commissioners on both sides were perfectly agreed, and the King had promised to sign it the next morning, a letter coming from the Marquis of Montrose, which informed

informed his Majesty of the great success of that nobleman's arms in Scotland, made him obstinately refuse to ratify the treaty; whence the Parliament concluded, that he had no design to keep his word with his people, if he once got the superiority over them.

In 1645, Sir Thomas Fairfax was made General in Chief over the Parliament's forces, in the room of the Earl of Essex, and Oliver Cromwell was appointed Lieutenant-General; when the two armies coming to an engagement, the Parliamentarians obtained a compleat victory, thro' a fresh instance of Prince Rupert's imprudence; for he having gained an advantage over the enemy's left wing, pursued the fugitives, while the rest of the royal army were defeated. This victory was so decisive, that the Parliament's forces afterwards conquered wherever they came, and gained several other bloody battles.

The next year the King having no longer any army, and dreading lest he should be shut up in Oxford by Fairfax, who was advancing to that city, privately withdrew from thence, and made his escape to the Scotch army; but the Scotch, after many debates, at last consented to deliver up his Majesty to the Parliament, in consideration of their receiving the sum of 400,000*l*. The King was therefore delivered by the Scotch General to the English commissioners at Newcastle, on the 30th of January, 1647, and escorted by Sir Thomas Fairfax, with 900 horse, to Holmby-house in Northamptonshire.

Cromwell, who had distinguished himself by his discipline and intrepidity, now ingratiated himself

himself so far with the soldiers, that he raised a party among them, which at length became formidable to the Parliament itself; and yet, by his address, he still maintained his interest in the House of Commons.

Several officers in the army petitioned against being disbanded; but this petition was treated with great contempt, and the House sent Cromwell, Skippon, Ireton and Fleetwood, to disband the army: When Cromwell, instead of obeying, formed a plan for rendering the constitution of the army an epitome of that of the State. The field-officers and captains sat in the nature of Peers; the Commons were chosen out of the subalterns and most sensible of the private men, under the name of Agitators; and the General acted as their King. The Agitators now thought they had as much right to have the person of the King as the Parliament had, and therefore, being prompted by Cromwell, sent Cornet Joyce, with 50 troopers, to Holmby for the King; on which his Majesty put himself into their hands, and was treated with great respect. He now followed the motions of the army, and was at last conducted to Hampton-court, whence he made his escape; but being retaken, was confined in Carisbrook castle, where the Parliament set on foot a treaty of accommodation: but Cromwell having intercepted a letter to the King, changed his conduct, and by his power in the army procured a vote, that no more addresses should be made to his Majesty. Insignificant risings were now made in several parts of the kingdom to rescue the king, which ended in the ruin of the undertakers; and though the
Scotch

Scotch had, two years before, delivered up his Majesty, they, in 1648, marched into England to rescue him from captivity; but were soon driven back by Cromwell.

At length a new treaty was set on foot in the Isle of Wight, which, like the former, came to nothing; and the King being brought from that island to Hurst Castle, and from thence to St. James's, an order was passed for bringing him to his trial; for which purpose a new kind of tribunal was erected, which consisted of 150 persons, about half of whom obeyed the commission, and sat in what was called, The High Court of Justice. The President of this court was John Bradshaw, Serjeant at Law, and the prosecution was carried on by Cooke, the Solicitor in the name of the people of England. The King being several times brought before this court, and refusing to own its authority, sentence was pronounced against this unhappy Monarch by Bradshaw, on the 27th of January, 1649, and on the 30th of the same month his majesty, about ten o'clock, was brought from St. James's to Whitehall, by a regiment of foot, and a private guard of partizans, who walked bare-headed on one side of the King, as Bishop Juxton did on the other; and having passed about two hours at his devotion in the cabinet chamber in Whitehall, was brought thro' one of the windows of the banquetting-house upon the scaffold, which was hung with black, and surrounded by soldiers, who lined each side of the streets. His Majesty then made a speech, in which he professed himself a Protestant, and
denied

denied his having any ill designs against his people. After which the unhappy King began to prepare for the fatal blow, and was assisted by the Bishop, to whom he gave his George, and bid him remember to send it to the Prince. He then put his hair into his cap, and stript into his waistcoat, after which he stood and prayed with great fervency, then laid his neck upon the block, and after a short pause stretched forth his hands as a signal for the executioner, who severed his head from the body at one blow.

Thus died King Charles in the 49th year of his age, and the 24th of his reign.

This unhappy Monarch had many private virtues, and would probably have lived admired as a worthy Prince, had it not been for the principles he imbibed in his education, and the ill advice he received from his Ministers. His features were handsome, regular, and well proportioned; his body strong, healthy, and well-made; and notwithstanding his being low in stature, he was capable of enduring great fatigue.

In the first year of King Charles's reign, a violent plague broke out in London; and the next year great earthquakes were felt in many parts of the kingdom. In 1631 most of the houses on London-Bridge, which then made a beautiful street, were burnt to the ground. In 1635 one Thomas Parr was presented to the King, who enjoyed a perfect state of health, though 152 years of age, being born in the last year of Edward IV.

The COMMON-WEALTH of ENGLAND,
from 1649 to 1653.

C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

Innocent X. 1644
Alexander VII. 1655

E M P E R O R S.

Ferdinand III. 1637
Leopold 1658
King of France.
Lewis XIV. 1643

THE Parliament had no sooner destroyed the King, than they excluded from their body all whom they thought were not inclined to their new system, and then declared the royal power to be unnecessary, burdensome, and dangerous; and as they had before excluded the Bishops from the House of Lords, they now voted that House to be useless; when a few of the temporal Peers got themselves elected into the House of Commons. They next appointed 40 of the members to be intrusted with the executive power, under the title of the Council of State; and new courts of justice were instituted, in which those noblemen and others were tried, who had offended the present Government, when the Duke of Hamilton, the Earl of Holland, and the Lord Capel, with others, suffered by the sentence of these courts.

The hierarchy of the church was entirely destroyed; the Common-Prayer-Book laid aside, and a book called The Directory, formed by the Divines who met at Westminster, was made the

rule of worship; and those of the clergy, who refused to conform to it, were deprived of their livings, and many of them were cruelly treated by the mob, and the Parliament army.

The Scots being no better satisfied under the government of the new powers, than they had been under the late King, an army was sent in 1649 to keep them in awe: And about the same time an order of men, called the Levellers, sprung up in the English army from those whom Cromwell had made use of to support his own power; but they were soon suppressed by his vigilance and courage. Cromwell was then sent into Ireland to reduce the rebels, in which he met with surprising success; and in about nine months time made a great progress towards the total reduction of that island: But the Scots revolting again, and calling over the young King, the Parliament sent for Cromwell in haste, when he entered London with great splendor, and soon after was sent with a considerable army towards Scotland; but the King, with the Scotch army, slipping by him, advanced by speedy marches as far as Worcester; however, Cromwell coming up with them, a battle was fought on the 3d of September, 1650, in which Charles had 2,000 men killed, and 8,000 made prisoners, while Cromwell had only 100 killed and 500 wounded. His Majesty was in the greatest perplexity after he had escaped from the defeat. He fled the first night to Kidderminster, and having disguised himself like a peasant, put himself under the care of a trusty guide, who conducted him to the house of William Penderel, at Boscobel, on

the confines of Staffordshire, where he was lodged in a garret, by taking up some of the flooring, and making a place just big enough to hold a little bed. The King was soon joined by Col. Careless, and they concealed themselves in the day time in a thick wood close to the house, where they frequently sat in a large oak, saw some of their pursuers, and heard them say, that they wished the King might fall into their hands, because a very great reward was offered for taking him. He afterwards rode before a gentlewoman in the disguise of a servant man, and at length, after being several times in danger of being taken, went on board a small bark at Shoreham, which landed him near Havre-de-Grace in Normandy.

Cromwell then marched into Scotland; defeated the Scots at Dunbar; took Edinburgh Castle; and, in a short time, entirely reduced that kingdom.

In fine, after every thing had given way before him, Cromwell, in 1653, treated the long Parliament itself with the greatest violence, by going with an armed force to the House, where he seized the Speaker's mace, and turned out the members. He then set up a Council of state, who, sometime after transferring their authority to him, gave him the title of *Lord Protector of England, &c.* He now wanted nothing but a just title to have been one of the greatest Monarchs England has produced. He refused the title of King, which he was desired to accept by one of his Parliaments; but is said to have afterwards repented of this instance of his moderation;

deration ; and though he in many instances acted in a very arbitrary manner, he filled the seats of justice with men of the most distinguished probity and wisdom, chose the most proper persons for the administration of affairs, and justice was every where well administered, except in a few instances where he himself was concerned.

The Commonwealth had been for some time at war with the Dutch, and several battles were fought at sea, in all which the English distinguished themselves by an amazing intrepidity, particularly on the 2d and 3d of June, 1653, when a fleet under Van Trump, de Ruyter, and de Wit, was put to flight by Admiral Pen, and pursued by the English with such success, that they sunk six of their capital ships, blew up two, and took eleven : And Admiral Blake coming in with 18 fresh ships, the whole Dutch fleet would have been taken or destroyed, if they had not saved themselves on the Flats between Dunkirk and Calais ; and yet in this engagement the English did not lose one ship. But a more decisive battle was fought on the 31st of July following, when the Dutch had 27 of their prime ships taken or destroyed, and Van Trump, the Dutch Admiral, was killed. In this engagement the English fleet, commanded by Monk, Blake, Lawson and Pen, consisted of 106 ships, and the Dutch fleet of 120. However, Cromwell soon after concluded a peace with the Dutch, and then joined with France against Spain ; obtained Dunkirk, which he assisted the French King to conquer, and sent Admiral Pen into

America, who took the valuable Island of Jamaica from the Spaniards; mean while the brave Admiral Blake distinguished himself in the Mediterranean; he obliged the grand Duke of Tuscany to pay 60,000 l. for damages sustained by the English in his territories. He was the first man who brought ships to contemn castles on shore. He compelled the Dey of Algiers to enter into a peace with England. The Tunisians, priding themselves in the strength of the castles at the entrance of the harbour of Tunis, despised his power; but he soon rendered the castles and forts defenceless; burnt nine of their ships of war, and obliged them to submit to his terms, with the loss of only 25 men killed: By which action he spread the terror of his name thro' Africa and Asia. He then attacked the Spanish plate-fleet in the Bay of Santa Cruz, in the Isle of Teneriffe. It consisted of six galleons richly laden, and ten other ships of burden, which were moored to the land, and well defended by a chain of forts and batteries. Blake knew they had carried their rich effects on shore, yet was determined to destroy their ships; which he most amazingly effected, to the prodigious loss of the Spaniards, though the English had only 48 men killed, and 120 wounded. Thus the name of Cromwell and his brave Admirals became formidable, and all the nations of Europe, and even the piratical states of Africa, sought his alliance.

At length Cromwell died on the 3d of September, 1658, about which time there was one

of

of the most violent tempests that ever was known in England.

Upon his death his eldest son Richard was declared Protector; but could not, nor would not, long support his dignity, which he resigned the April following*. Henry, Richard's younger brother, was at that time Lieutenant of Ireland, where he was greatly beloved; but it is highly probable, that they neither of them heartily approved of their father's usurpation, and therefore easily gave way to those who supplanted them. It is however certain, that they were allowed to spend their days in peace after the Restoration, when many instances of respect were shewn them by the Royal Family, and Richard lived till the latter end of Q. Anne's reign.

A Parliament †, consisting of 42 of the old members, succeeded Richard, and governed the kingdom till October; when, being displaced by the army, a committee of safety was set up, but was of short duration; and a scene of confusion following, the people were naturally induced to turn their thoughts to the Restoration of the Royal Authority and Family, which was brought about by General Monk, who marching

* Richard, says Dr. Sharpe, deserves abundantly more consideration than has yet been paid him. He did not think power worth the price it was to cost; and abdicated with a better grace than his father usurped.

† This Parliament, which was the remains of that dissolved by Cromwell, in 1653, and contained about half the members that, in 1648, had put the King to death, was in derision called the RUMP PARLIAMENT, in allusion to a Fowl all devoured but the Rump.

with

with an army from Scotland, was in possession of London before he publicly made known his design. He first reconciled himself to the magistracy of London, to whom he had given some offence, and then demanded of the Rump Parliament to fix a period for their dissolution, that a full and free parliament might be chosen; but being first determined to restore the secluded members, (after making them promise to call a free parliament,) he sent a guard with them to the house, where they took their seats among the sitting members, who had no previous notice of their coming. As the secluded members thus seated were near eighty in number, and the Rump members not about fifty, they soon repealed all that was done to their prejudice; voted Gen. Monk Captain General of the land-forces in the three kingdoms, and continued Lawson Vice-Admiral of the naval forces; soon after which K. Charles II. was invited to England, and proclaimed King on the 8th of May, 1660. On the 28th of the same month he landed at Dover, and on his birth-day, which was the 29th, made his public entry through London on horse-back, attended by his two brothers, James Duke of York, and Henry Duke of Gloucester.

XXVI. CHARLES *the* SECOND,
Nominally, from 1649, actually,
from 1660 to 1685.



Gay, sprightly, heedless, affable, and lewd,
In CHARLES's court few cares did long intrude ;
But Popish influence stain'd his latter day
With plots, and fines, and arbitrary sway.

C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.

E M P E R O R.

<i>Alexander VII.</i>	1655	<i>Leopold</i>	1658
<i>Clement IX.</i>	1667		
<i>Clement X.</i>	1670	King of France.	
<i>Innocent XI.</i>	1676	<i>Lewis XIV.</i>	1643

CHARLES II. was crowned on the 23d of April, 1661, when one of the first laws past in his reign was an act of indemnity, excepting those personally concerned in the death of his father, and a few others ; but as all the evils occasioned by the usurpation were charged upon the Dissenters, they were treated with great severity, and were not able to assemble for religious worship, without the danger of fines and imprisonment. Yet it is worthy of remark, that Charles the II'd's first parliament, which he kept no less than 18 years, never in their public acts gave the name of rebellion to the first opposition made against his father ; but the King's murder, and all the violences which followed, were justly chargeable on some particular men in the army, who trampled the whole legislature under foot, as well as the royal authority.

King Charles was married to Catharine, Infanta of Portugal, about two years after his restoration ; and in 1664 entered into a war with the Dutch, in which several naval battles were fought, and in particular a very bloody one on the 3d of June, 1665, when the Duke of York, who commanded the English fleet, distinguished himself

himself by his courage; Opdam, the Dutch Admiral, lost his life, together with his ship, and 19 others were either taken, burnt, or sunk; but in 1667 the Dutch sailed up the Medway and even burnt many of our ships at Chatham, soon after which a peace was concluded.

Though the King had no children by his wife, he had many by his mistresses, who were very numerous; and the Duke of Monmouth, his eldest son, had such a share in his favour, as to raise the jealousy of the King's brother, the Duke of York, who prevailed on his Majesty to declare, that he was never married to Mrs. Walters, the Duke of Monmouth's mother. However, each of these Dukes were adhered to by separate parties, which divided the nation into factions, and alternately prevailed over the King's easy temper: But these factions at length ran so high, as to rouse the King from his indolence.

In 1678, one Titus Oates, who had been educated at Cambridge, and admitted into orders, had, seemingly at least, turned Roman Catholic, and been admitted among the English Jesuits at St. Omer's; after which he went into Spain, and having informed himself of all the particulars relating to a plot formed by the Pope, the King of France, the Duke of York, and several of the nobility, and others, applied to Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, a Justice of peace in Westminster, and represented to him, that they had formed a design to murder the King, destroy the government, and subvert the Protestant Religion in England. On which Sir Edmundbury
Godfrey

Godfrey took his deposition; but was soon after murdered, and his body found in a ditch. Several persons were tried and hanged for that murder, and the King being very negligent in that affair, and refusing to pursue it, the Parliament sent for Oates, and Bedloe, who was another of the informers; and afterwards imprisoned several Papists, who were condemned and executed, among whom was Coleman the Duke of York's secretary. However, whether this plot was real or only invented, Titus Oates suffered very severely for the share he had in its discovery in the succeeding reign.

On the other hand, the Papists endeavoured to save themselves by a counter-plot, which they laid to the charge of the Presbyterians, and which they prosecuted with still greater degrees of rancour. The brave Lord Russel, son to the Earl of Bedford, and the learned and ingenious Colonel Sidney, one of the wisest and best men of his time, were beheaded for it, though nothing could be proved against the Colonel, but a manuscript on government, which he had not published, and which is now admired as the best written piece on that subject in the English language. For this last plot the Earl of Essex was also committed to the Tower, where he was found with his throat cut, which occasioned conjectures that were very dishonourable to the King and the Duke of York.

In 1667 the Lord Chancellor Hyde, whose daughter had been married to the Duke of York, was disgraced, and spent his exile in France, where he wrote his History of the Rebellion.

He

He was succeeded by Cowper, Earl of Shaftsbury, who was also driven from court, and died in Holland. Among the other ministers of this reign, were the Lord Clifford, and Sir William Temple, who distinguished himself by his integrity and his extraordinary abilities.

While many suffered for being of a religion somewhat different from that established by law, there was not the least appearance of any religion at court; for though the Duke of York was a bigotted Papist, yet that was made so great a secret, that people were severely fined for mentioning it. The King seemed to espouse the interest of France more than his own, and through his whole reign favoured the schemes of Lewis XIV. At his instigation he had before made war on the Dutch, and in 1672 joined with France against the States, when both sides claimed the victory; but the politic French King had the pleasure of seeing the two maritime powers weaken each other, while he was raising a fleet, which he hoped in time would be a sufficient match for both. King Charles even suffered him to be supplied with British timber for building men of war, and shamefully selling Dunkirk, which Cromwell had procured for England, employed the purchase-money in his pleasures, and appeared a more obsequious pensioner to France, than the long Parliament had been to him.

Towards the end of his reign Tangier, which was part of the Queen's portion, was demolished by order of the parliament; but Bombay, which was also a part of her dower, is at present

sent one of the most flourishing settlements in the East Indies.

King Charles, a little before his death, abolished almost all the corporations in the kingdom, not excepting the several companies in London. Some of which voluntarily surrendered, others stood trial, but were all cast; and new charters were granted them, with such restrictions as the King thought fit. John Dutton, Colt, and Dr. Titus Oates, were now sued in actions of *Scandalum Magnatum* by the Duke of York, who had 10,000 l. damages awarded against each of them, for which they were committed to the King's-Bench prison.

King Charles died on the 6th of February, 1685, in the 55th year of his age, after an actual reign of 24 years, eight months, and nine days, and was buried in Westminster-Abbey.

This king had a swarthy complexion, and a severe and disagreeable countenance; but was tall, and was admired for his great affability and easiness of access. He had a good natural temper, and a greater capacity for business than his indolence would suffer him often to exert. He is reproached for being too forgetful of his friends, and the favours they had done him: However, his many amiable qualities rendered him generally beloved.

As during Cromwell's government, enthusiasm spread throughout the kingdom; religion was now laid aside, and the smallest appearance of it was represented as unfashionable and ridiculous; and this was properly the reign of wit, gallantry and debauchery. However, the Eng-
lish

lish language was enriched by the performances of several of the most excellent poets England has produced. Milton wrote his *Paradise Lost*, and Butler his *Hudibras*; Waller, Cowley, Dryden, and Roscommon, also did honour to the nation by their writings.

In 1660 the Royal Society was established in London, by the King's letters patent. In 1665 a dreadful plague carried off in London 70 or 80,000 persons, besides what died by other disorders; and the next year was the dreadful fire which reduced to ashes above 13,000 houses and 90 churches, in memory of which a monument was erected where the fire begun. In 1675 almost the whole town of Northampton was destroyed by fire; and the following year 600 houses were consumed in the Borough of Southwark. During this reign several comets appeared, the most remarkable of which was in 1680, its tail extending 45 degrees. In 1683 was a severe frost, which begun in the middle of November, and lasted till the 5th of February, when the hackney coachmen plied upon the Thames as they used to do in the streets. That great River was even passable below Bridge, and many booths were built there upon the ice; even all the narrow seas were so frozen, that for a fortnight no packet-boat could sail, either from England, France, or Holland. In this reign a person, whose name was Blood, stole the crown, scepter, and regalia, out of the Tower, but was discovered and taken.

XXVII. JAMES *the* SECOND,
from 1685 to 1688.



Blinded with zeal, this furious popish King,
Rome's yoke on England sought again to bring;
He, whilst he reign'd, usurp'd a lawless sway,
Till WILLIAM came, and open'd freedom's day.

C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E.		King of France.	
<i>Innocent XI.</i>	1676	<i>Lewis XIV.</i>	1643
Emperor.			
<i>Leopold</i>	1658		

JAMES, Duke of York, who had been acknowledged by his brother the late King as heir to the crown, and had triumphed over those who attempted to exclude him from the succession, was proclaimed King on the 6th of February 1685, without any great marks of joy being discovered. This important ceremony was, however, no sooner over, than, assembling the Privy-Council, he made them a formal speech, in which he gave them the strongest assurances of his clemency, expressed his aversion to arbitrary power, and his resolution to preserve the government both of the church and state. This speech was received with joy, and being immediately published abroad, met with great applause from the people; but notwithstanding these assurances, and though he had in the lifetime of his brother persecuted Mr. Colt upon a *Scandalum Magnatum* for saying he was a papist, he went publicly to mass two days after his accession, and soon effaced the ideas he had raised of his clemency, by receiving, with frowns, those who had promoted the exclusion-bill.

The coronation of the King and Queen was solemnized on the 3d of April by Dr. Sancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, after the protestant form, only he did not take the sacrament, which had never been omitted before. Titus Oates, the discoverer of the popish plot in the late reign, was now tried by the Lord Chief Justice Jefferies, and being found guilty on two indictments, was sentenced to pay a fine of 1000 marks upon each, to be stript of his canonical habit, to be whipt from Aldgate to Newgate on Wednesday, and from Newgate to Tyburn on the Friday following; to remain close prisoner, and to stand in the pillory five times every year during his life: But Oates still protested the veracity of his testimony, and survived the severity of his punishment, which was executed with all imaginable rigour and barbarity. Mr. Dangerfield was the next victim to the Catholics for discovering the pretended meal-tub plot, and met with nearly the same treatment; and Mr. Richard Baxter, an eminent Dissenting Minister, who had refused the Bishopric of Hereford soon after the Restoration, had a kind of sham trial, under the pretence of his having reflected on the prelates of the church of England in his *Paraphrase on the New Testament*; when he and his council were treated with the basest brutality, and not allowed to speak in his defence; after which he was sentenced to pay a fine of 500 marks, to lie in prison till he had paid it, and to give security for his good behaviour for seven years.

Soon

Soon after Archibald, Earl of Argyle, who had fled from his cruel condemnation in Scotland in 1681, and had taken refuge in Holland, prevailed on James Duke of Monmouth, who was banished in 1683, to attempt to obtain the crown. The Earl landed in Scotland with arms and ammunition; but being unable to raise a sufficient force was deserted, taken prisoner, and beheaded on his former sentence. The Duke of Monmouth landed at Lyme in Dorsetshire with only 83 followers on the 11th of June, and immediately published a declaration, That his sole motive for taking arms was to maintain the Protestant religion, and to deliver the nation from the usurpation and tyranny of James Duke of York, and that his mother was actually married to King Charles II. The common people immediately crowded to his standard, and he was soon at the head of near 6000 men; but wanting money and arms, he was obliged to dismiss thousands of the populace. He was, however, proclaimed King at Taunton, Bridgewater and Wells; but being defeated by the Earl of Feversham, and losing about 1500 men in the battle and the pursuit, he was obliged to seek his safety in flight, and having changed cloaths with a peasant, was found in a ditch covered over with fern, oppressed with fatigue, and fainting for want of sustenance, he having only a few peasecods in his pocket, which had probably been for some time his only food. He was conveyed to the Tower, and by virtue of a bill of attainder, without being allowed the common forms of law, was brought to the scaffold

on

The coronation of the King and Queen was solemnized on the 3d of April by Dr. Sancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, after the protestant form, only he did not take the sacrament, which had never been omitted before. Titus Oates, the discoverer of the popish plot in the late reign, was now tried by the Lord Chief Justice Jefferies, and being found guilty on two indictments, was sentenced to pay a fine of 1000 marks upon each, to be stript of his canonical habit, to be whipt from Aldgate to Newgate on Wednesday, and from Newgate to Tyburn on the Friday following; to remain close prisoner, and to stand in the pillory five times every year during his life: But Oates still protested the veracity of his testimony, and survived the severity of his punishment, which was executed with all imaginable rigour and barbarity. Mr. Dangerfield was the next victim to the Catholics for discovering the pretended meal-tub plot, and met with nearly the same treatment; and Mr. Richard Baxter, an eminent Dissenting Minister, who had refused the Bishopric of Hereford soon after the Restoration, had a kind of sham trial, under the pretence of his having reflected on the prelates of the church of England in his *Paraphrase on the New Testament*; when he and his council were treated with the basest brutality, and not allowed to speak in his defence; after which he was sentenced to pay a fine of 500 marks, to lie in prison till he had paid it, and to give security for his good behaviour for seven years.

Soon

Soon after Archibald, Earl of Argyle, who had fled from his cruel condemnation in Scotland in 1681, and had taken refuge in Holland, prevailed on James Duke of Monmouth, who was banished in 1683, to attempt to obtain the crown. The Earl landed in Scotland with arms and ammunition; but being unable to raise a sufficient force was deserted, taken prisoner, and beheaded on his former sentence. The Duke of Monmouth landed at Lyme in Dorsetshire with only 83 followers on the 11th of June, and immediately published a declaration, That his sole motive for taking arms was to maintain the Protestant religion, and to deliver the nation from the usurpation and tyranny of James Duke of York, and that his mother was actually married to King Charles II. The common people immediately crowded to his standard, and he was soon at the head of near 6000 men; but wanting money and arms, he was obliged to dismiss thousands of the populace. He was, however, proclaimed King at Taunton, Bridgewater and Wells; but being defeated by the Earl of Feversham, and losing about 1500 men in the battle and the pursuit, he was obliged to seek his safety in flight, and having changed cloaths with a peasant, was found in a ditch covered over with fern, oppressed with fatigue, and fainting for want of sustenance, he having only a few peasecods in his pocket, which had probably been for some time his only food. He was conveyed to the Tower, and by virtue of a bill of attainder, without being allowed the common forms of law, was brought to the scaffold

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on Tower-hill on the 15th of July, 1685, when he desired the executioner to do his work well, felt the axe, said he was afraid it was not sharp enough, and refusing to have a cap, laid his head on the block with a fortitude that astonished and disconcerted the executioner, who at the first blow gave him so slight a wound, that the Duke lifted up his head and looked him in the face, as if he would reproach him for making his death so painful; then gently laying it down a second time, the executioner struck him again and again to as little effect as at first, when being seized with horror, he threw down his axe, crying, that he could not finish his work. The sheriff, however, obliged him to take up the bloody weapon, and at two strokes more he separated the head from the body. Thus died the Duke of Monmouth, the idol of the people, in the 36th year of his age.

The prisoners and others who had espoused his cause, were now butchered by military execution under Kirk, or barbarously executed by a form of law under Jefferies. The greatest inhumanity was shewn to all who had adhered to this unfortunate nobleman, and great numbers of both sexes were hanged up without a fair and legal trial, and some on the most trifling complaints. The inhumanity of General Kirk, who commanded the King's forces in the West, was equal to that of the execrable Judge whom he attended. He caused 90 men to be hanged at Taunton, with pipes playing, drums beating, and trumpets sounding; and a beautiful young woman throwing herself at his feet, to implore

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mercy for her brother, he prevailed on her to gratify his lust, promising on that condition to grant her petition ; but having satiated his brutal appetite, he took her to his chamber window, and shewed her her brother hanging on the sign-post, on which the unhappy woman immediately ran distracted.

In short, about 600 persons were hanged by Jefferies, and the church steeples, town gates, and high roads, were stuck with the heads and limbs of those who had been the Duke's adherents, in order to shock his surviving friends, and to perpetuate the cruelty of the inexorable Judge.

The King now resolved to indulge the Dissenters, in order to pave the way for a general plan of toleration ; and as they had been hitherto persecuted with great severity, their joy was so great, that addresses flowed in from those of all denominations, in the highest strain of loyalty and gratitude ; but soon perceiving that the King intended only to introduce popery, they became on their guard. Five popish Lords were admitted into the Privy-Council, a Roman Catholic was appointed a Judge ; four popish Bishops were publicly consecrated in the royal chapel, and sent down to their respective dioceses, under the title of Vicars Apostolical, and the monks swarmed in their habits about the court. A new ecclesiastical court was formed, and Dr. Sharp, Rector of St. Giles's in the Fields, and Henry Compton, Bishop of London, were suspended ; the former for preaching against popery, and the latter for not suspending him for that
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supposed crime. The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge was also suspended for refusing to admit a Benedictine Monk to the degree of Master of Arts: The Deanery of Christ-church in Oxford was given to a papist, and the King attempted, by menaces, to impose a popish president on Magdalen College, in the same University. The Earl of Castlemain was sent Ambassador to the Pope, and seven of the Bishops were sent to the Tower for writing a petition against publishing the King's declaration of indulgence: The people looked upon the cause of these reverend prelates as that of Religion and Liberty; they were brought to their trial in Westminster-hall, and the Jury brought in their verdict Not Guilty, when the loudest acclamations of joy were made in the hall, the city, and throughout the whole kingdom; and the King being then encamped with the army on Hounslow-heath, had the mortification to hear a general shout of joy among the soldiers for their deliverance.

Mean while the Queen was said to be delivered of a Prince on the 10th of June, 1688, though such measures were taken by the court, as raised a suspicion of its being a design to impose an heir upon the kingdom. This event alienated the minds of the Princesses Mary and Anne, the King's own undisputed children by the Lady Anne Hyde. The churchmen now began to think that the Dissenters had been too rigorously treated, and the Dissenters found they had wrongfully accused the church of England of leaning towards popery. Party dissensions and religious distinctions therefore subsided: A na-

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tional coalition was formed among both parties, and nothing but the common enemy was despised. The Prince of Orange had married Mary, King James's eldest daughter, and was himself the son of that King's eldest sister, and consequently the next in blood to his wife and sister-in-law; he naturally attracted the regard of the people of England, who applied to him for deliverance. He was at this time Stadtholder of the United Provinces, and having the fleets and forces of the States-General at his command, seemed the only resource the people had left, and was therefore invited by the principal nobility of the kingdom to come over, in order to defend the religion and liberties of this nation.

King James at length hearing that William Prince of Orange was preparing to land in England, was struck with a panic. He then promised to comply with the desires of his people, offered to govern according to law, and to turn the Roman Catholics out of the Places he had given them: But on his hearing that the Prince had weighed anchor and was driven back by a storm, he took fresh courage, reversed these orders, and let the people see that no dependence was to be had on his promises. The Prince, however, sailed a second time, landed at Torbay on the 5th of November, and was joyfully received by the people, and soon joined by the principal persons in the kingdom, among whom were the Lord Churchill, afterwards Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Grafton, and many others of the principal nobility. There also
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went over to him not only many of the officers and soldiers, and commanders of the fleet, but several of the King's household, and even his own daughter the Princess Anne, who followed her consort the Prince of Denmark.

His Majesty now made fresh promises, and appointed commissioners to treat with the Prince of Orange about terms of accommodation. The Prince made his proposals with great moderation, and if the King in his distress had readily embraced them, he might have preserved his crown, by only suffering the prerogative to be reduced within proper bounds; but he chose to desert his kingdom rather than retract what he had done in favour of the popish religion; and therefore ordering the Earl of Feversham to disband his army, went disguised in a small boat down the River to Gravesend, and embarked in a vessel near Feversham in Kent, where he was stopped by some fishermen who boarded the vessel, and taking him for a popish priest, treated him with great indignity as they conducted him to the town. In this distress he sent for the Earl of Winchelsea, who prevailed on his Majesty to return to London, on which he was received near Sittingbourn by his coach and body guards. However, upon the Prince of Orange's nearer approach, he fled from Whitehall a second time, and escaped into France, in December 1688, which was the end of his reign. He, however, made a fruitless attempt upon Ireland, and spent the last twelve years of his life at St. Germain's, where Lewis XIV. allowed him to keep his court, and granted him a pension of about

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50,000*l.* sterling per annum. At length, after having several times attempted his restoration, he died in 1701, in the 68th year of his age*.

King James had a moderate capacity, great gloominess of temper, a strong constitution, and an active disposition. His chief merit was his skill in naval affairs. However, his reign was weak, inactive, violent and superstitious, in which all regard to the affairs of Europe was laid aside, for the sake of exercising a sort of tyranny over the minds and consciences of his people.

Under his reign the commercial interest of England received great advantage from the French protestants, who fled hither on the revocation of the edict of Nants. And in 1688, charity-schools began to be set up in London, with a view of preventing the poor from suffering their children to be educated in Roman Catholic schools and seminaries.

* *M. Voltaire* very justly observes, that few Princes have been so unfortunate as *James*; nor does history produce an instance of any family that, for a long course of years, were so unhappy as that of the *Stewarts*. The first of his ancestors who reigned over Scotland, (and whose name was also *James*) after eighteen years imprisonment in England, was, together with his Queen, murdered by his own subjects. *James II.* his son, was, at the age of nineteen, slain in a battle he fought with the *English*. *James III.* was imprisoned, and afterwards slain in the field by his own subjects. *James IV.* lost his life also in an engagement. *Mary Stewart*, his great-grandmother, was driven by her subjects into *England*, and there tried and beheaded. *Charles* the First, her grandson, after a long and bloody war with his own people, lost his head on a scaffold at *Whitehall*: And this disguised and unfortunate Prince, who was his son, lost the affection of his people and his crown.

XXVIII. WILLIAM *the* THIRD and
M A R Y *the* SECOND,

from 1688 to 1702.



WILLIAM the hero, with MARIA mild,
(He James's nephew, she his eldest child,)
Fix'd freedom and the church, reform'd the court,
Oppos'd the French, and settl'd Brunswick's line.

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COTEMPORARIES.

POPES.

Innocent XI. 1676
 Alexander VIII. 1689
 Innocent XII. 1691

EMPEROR.

Leopold 1659
 King of France.
 Lewis XIV. 1643

UPON King James's departure the Lords and Commons agreed, after much dispute, that he had abdicated the throne. It was then proposed, that the Princess Mary should be Queen, and the Prince of Orange Regent; but this being refused, they were proclaimed King and Queen on the 13th of February 1689, and were crowned on the 11th of April following.

A very great change was made in the constitution by this revolution; for a Bill of Rights, containing the privileges and claims of the people, was passed into a law. To prevent the Judges from being any more under the direction of the crown, they were to hold places for life, unless they were legally found guilty of misconduct. The supply of money necessary for the support of civil government was separated from that appointed for the fleets and armies; and the Commons reserved to themselves the power of annually granting the latter. Hence arose the distinction between the *civil list* and the *supplies for the current year*.

At the beginning of this reign, several of the Bishops and Clergy, still considering James as King of England, refused the oaths to

King William; and from thence arose the party called Jacobites. Several attainders were now reversed, and judgments given in the late reign declared illegal, and Titus Oates in particular obtained a pardon, with a pension of 5*l.* a week.

Mean while an attempt was made to secure Scotland for King James; but on the 26th of May 1689, the two armies met at Killlicranky, in the shire of Perth, when Lieutenant General Mackay, who commanded the forces for King William, and had 4000 foot and four troops of horse, was opposed by Viscount Dundee, with 6300 foot and 100 horse, who obliged him to retire in disorder; but when Mackay expected to have been totally defeated, Lord Dundee was killed by a random shot, and his troops were so discouraged by his loss, that Mackay obtained a victory. The Duke of Gordon, who defended Edinburgh castle, surrendered that important fortress on the 13th of June, by which the whole island of Great Britain submitted to King William; but Ireland was far from following the example of Scotland.

In Ireland, Tyrconnel had disarmed all the protestants in great part of the kingdom in one day, and formed an army of papists, amounting to 30,000 foot and 8000 horse, while the protestants in the North took up arms for King William. Mean while James made his public entry into Dublin, and soon after marching towards the north of the kingdom with 20,000 men, took Killmore and Coleraine, and afterwards invested Londonderry, where the inhabitants, who amounted to 7000 fighting men,
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taking courage from despair, resolved to sacrifice their lives rather than surrender the town, which had been meanly deserted by the Governor. The Rev. patriot Mr. Walker, who commanded a regiment of his own raising, took upon him the government of the city, in conjunction with Major Baker, and upon this occasion preached a most animating sermon, with his drawn sword in one hand, and the Bible in the other; and inspired the inhabitants with such heroic courage, that they made a vigorous defence, though reduced to such extremities of famine, that they were glad to feed on rats, tallow and hides. But three ships being at last sent to their relief, the siege was raised on the 30th of July, after it had continued three months.

The inhabitants of Inneskillin distinguished themselves like those of Londonderry, and with 2000 men, commanded by Col. Berry, defeated 6000 Irish, commanded by General Mackarty, near Newton-Butler, after which they defeated 5000 Irish in their march to Sligo.

Mean while James, who had been reinforced by 5000 French, called a parliament in Dublin, which was wholly composed of papists, who declared King William an usurper; deprived all the protestants in the kingdom of their purchas'd possessions, and passed an act of attainder, in which many Bishops and Noblemen, and 2223 gentlemen, were all declared traitors, and their estates confiscated or plundered. Many hundreds of poor people were murdered in cold blood by the popish soldiers, and brass money

was coined in order to pass for gold, to the value of near a million sterling.

The French soon after sent 5000 men more into Ireland; however Marshal Schomberg, with a body of English forces, reduced several of the towns; and at length King William arriving in person, put himself at the head of 36,000 effective men, and encamped on the south side of the river Boyne, near Drogheda, opposite to King James's army, which was composed of 8000 French and 18,000 Irish. King William passed the river with his army, which took up the men to their waists; drove those before him who opposed his landing; marched over a morass to a rising ground that formed a natural entrenchment; drove the enemy from thence, and obtained a complete victory, with the loss of only 400 men; the French and Irish losing 1500 men and several general officers. But the death of Marshal Schomberg, who was killed by a musket-ball, was an irreparable misfortune, and the brave Dr. Walker, who had so nobly defended Londonderry, unhappily fell in this engagement. Voltaire observes, that at this battle the French fought, the Irish fled, and James their sovereign, without once heading either them or the French, was the first who quitted the field. By this victory King William established himself upon the throne of Ireland.

James, on his arrival at Dublin, immediately assembled the magistrates, and, complaining of the misbehaviour of the Irish soldiers, said, he was determined never more to head an Irish army, but would shift for himself. He was in the possession of the capital of a king-

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dom devoted to his service; had at least an army of 24,000 men in the field, and 15,000 more in garrisons, and had reason to expect supplies from France; notwithstanding which he left Dublin the next morning, and going to Waterford, took shipping, and falling in with the French Squadron, was safely convoyed to France, where he spent the remainder of his days at St. Germain, living upon the bounty of Lewis XIV. and an annual pension of 72,000 livres, or about 4,000*l.* sterling, which he received secretly from his daughter Mary, by whom he had been dethroned. He died at St. Germain in 1702; and it was pretended by some Irish Jesuits, that miracles were wrought at his tomb.

Drogheda now submitted to the conqueror: King William reduced the brass money to its intrinsic value; invested Limerick; but, being obliged to raise the siege, returned to England; and soon after the Earl of Marlborough reduced Cork and Kinsale.

This success was soon after ballanced by the defeat of the united fleets of the English and Dutch by the French admiral de Tourville, which was such a disgrace to the English navy, that the Earl of Torrington, who commanded the confederate fleet, was committed to the Tower; and though the Earl was unanimously acquitted by a court-martial, the King would never afterwards employ him, nor admit him into his presence.

King James had still a considerable army in Ireland, where 3,000 more French troops arrived on the 4th of May, 1691, with General
St. Ruth,

St. Ruth, who was made Commander in Chief; but General Ginkle obliged the garrison of Baltimore, consisting of 1000 men, to surrender at discretion. On the 30th of June he took Athlone by storm, in the sight of the French General; and on the 12th of July obtained a glorious victory over the French and Irish at Aghrim, though this Dutch General had only 18,000 men, and the French commander 25,000. The French and Irish had 4000 men killed, among whom was St. Ruth, who was shot by a cannon-ball, and 600 taken prisoners; while the English lost only 700 men. After this victory Gallway surrendered, and Limerick, after a long siege, capitulated upon honourable terms, and thus an end was put to the war in Ireland.

Admiral Russel, who succeeded the Earl of Torrington, as Admiral of the Red, now commanded a fleet of 99 ships of the line and 41,500 men, and on the 19th of May engaged the French fleet of 44 ships of the line commanded by Tourville, when, after an obstinate fight of eight hours, the French were obliged to sheer off, and were pursued by Admiral Russel. Three capital ships got to Cherburg, where they were burnt by Admiral Delaval, and 12 reached La Hogue, where they were destroyed by Admiral Rook. Among those that were burnt was the Royal Sun and the Ambitieux, each of 104 guns; while the whole loss sustained by the confederate fleet was insignificant, in comparison to the blow given to the naval force of France. Upon this victory, which prevented an invasion in favour of King James, Queen Mary ordered 30,000*l.* to be distributed among the brave Eng-

lish sailors, and presented the officers with medals struck upon the occasion.

About this time King William formed a grand alliance against Lewis XIV. whose ambitious views endangered the liberties of Europe; and the Emperor, the King of Spain, the Dutch, the Duke of Savoy, and some of the German Princes entered into the confederacy, of which King William was the head. He fought several battles, the most considerable of which were those of Steinkirk, in 1692, and of Landen, in 1693, in which he made a great slaughter of the enemy, but had the misfortune to lose the field, where he was generally foiled; but then, as Voltaire observes, though often beat, he was always to be feared, and frequently drew more advantages from a defeat, than the French from a victory. In 1695, he reduced the city of Namur, though the garrison consisted of 15,000 men, and the fortifications were thought to be impregnable, it being one of the strongest places in Europe.

At length the French made overtures of peace, and the treaty was concluded at Ryswick in 1697.

Whilst the King was thus engaged abroad, his illustrious Queen died of the small-pox on the 28th of December 1694, and was greatly lamented on account of her uncommon goodness. She had a solid piety, great sweetness, accompanied with majesty, and an air of grandeur, without the least tincture of pride or affectation. She had the sincerest affection for the King her consort, and governed the kingdom with great wisdom, while he was reducing
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the rebels in Ireland, and opposing the ambitious projects of France.

After the peace of Ryswick, the English army was disbanded, and the King obliged, contrary to his inclination, to dismiss his Dutch guards. Lewis XIV. then amused King William, the Emperor and the Dutch, by proposing a treaty for a partition of the Spanish monarchy upon the death of King Charles, who was then on the throne of Spain, by which only a small part was to fall to the Dauphin, which he claimed as a son of King Charles's sister. Lewis had, however, upon his marrying that Princess, absolutely renounced all such claim under the most solemn oaths. A son of the Elector of Bavaria being next in blood, was appointed to succeed the King of Spain; but he dying, Charles Archduke of Austria was by another treaty appointed heir to the crown of Spain. By these treaties Lewis XIV. exasperated King Charles, who, by carrying it fair with him, revenged the attempt of disposing of his crown without his consent, by bequeathing his whole dominions to Philip Duke of Anjou, who was descended from his sister, and was the son of the Dauphin of France; and accordingly, upon Charles's dying in 1700, Philip was called to the throne of Spain. This event alarmed King William, the Dutch, and the Emperor; but as they were unprepared to oppose the French, King William and the States-General, in order to gain time for forming another confederacy, acknowledged Philip King of Spain; but when hostilities were ready to break

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out, King William was thrown from his horse, by which his collar-bone was dislocated, and, being before in an ill state of health, he died on the 8th of March, 1702, in the 14th year of his reign, and the 52d of his age, and was interred next to his Queen, in Henry the VIIIth's Chapel.

Several conspiracies were formed in favour of James during King William's reign, the most remarkable of which was the assassination-plot in 1696, for murdering that Prince in his coach; for which Sir John Fenwick, Sir John Friend, Sir William Perkins, and others, were executed: Party disputes in this reign ran sometimes very high; for though both Whigs and Tories joined in the Revolution, they never would join afterwards.

King William was of a brown complexion, had a roman nose, and a lively and piercing eye. He was of a middle stature, had a thin and weak body, and was troubled with a constant cough. He was somewhat round-shoulder'd, and never looked so well as on horse-back. He had a penetrating genius, a sound judgment, a retentive memory, calmness and intrepidity: He was a true Protestant, and a friend to the liberties of mankind. He perfectly understood the several interests of the Princes of Europe; was indefatigable in the field, and in the cabinet sagacious, and seldom trusted to his Generals or his Secretaries; but issued out his orders himself, and wrote all dispatches of importance with his own hand: But his ill state of health made him somewhat hasty. His principal favourites

yourites were two or three Dutch gentlemen, whom he advanced to the peerage, and on whom he bestowed such gratuities, particularly out of the forfeited estates in Ireland, that the British Parliament thought fit to resume them. The massacre at Glencow in Scotland, where a whole family was cut off in violation of his word of honour, has been charged by King William's enemies as a great blemish on his memory; but that Prince's friends have fully justified him from having any concern in that affair; and, indeed, tho' he was fretful to those about him, and even to his nearest relations, he appeared through the whole course of his life to have too much candour and humanity to be guilty of a wanton act of cruelty.

In 1694, the Bank of England, and the Salt and Stamp offices were established. In 1696, the palace and manor of Greenwich were bestowed on the brave English seamen for an hospital; and the same year the clipt money was called in and recoinced. In 1702, the royal palace at Whitehall was destroyed by fire. One of the last acts of King William's life was his signing the bill for settling the crown on the illustrious House of Hanover, in case the Princess Anne of Denmark, who had a little before buried the Duke of Gloucester, an amiable and promising youth, died without issue: And in his reign the liberty of the press, the liberty of conscience, and better security for private property, were introduced and established.

XXIX. A N N E,

from 1702 to 1714.

Ten years of glory brighten'd ANNA's reign,
While Marlborough's arms did victory maintain;
Nor should hard censure shade her closing scene;
For, tho' misl'd, well meaning was the Queen.

C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E.		<i>Joseph</i>	
<i>Clement XI.</i>	1700	<i>Charles</i>	1705 1711
Emperors.		King of France.	
<i>Leopold</i>	1658	<i>Lewis XIV.</i>	1643

UPON the death of King William, the crown, according to the act of settlement, devolved to the Princess Anne, daughter of James II. by the Lady Anne Hyde, a daughter of of Lord Chancellor Clarendon. This great Princess was born at St. James's palace on the 16th of February, 1665; was married to his Royal Highness George Prince of Denmark, on the 28th of July, 1683; ascended the throne of Great Britain on the 8th of March, 1702, in the 37th year of her age, and was crowned on the 23d of April following.

She came to the throne in a very critical conjuncture, and found herself obliged to comply with the voice of the nation, in entering into a war with France.

The Prince of Denmark was immediately made Generalissimo of all the Queen's forces by sea and land, Lord High Admiral; and the Earl of Marlborough was appointed Captain-General, and Master of the Ordnance. War was declared against France and Spain on the 4th of May

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May, by the Queen, the Emperor, and the States-General : But the uninterrupted series of prosperity, victory, and triumph, with which it was attended, were so surprizing, that it would be impossible, in so short a compass, to mention the particulars even of the greatest actions.

The Earl of Marlborough, in 1702, led to the field the army of the allies, which consisted of 53,000 foot and 7200 horse, and instantly forced the enemy, who had laid siege to Nimeguen, to seek shelter behind their lines. He then took with surprizing rapidity Venlo, Ruremond, Stevensweart, and Liege. The taking of this last place ended the Earl's first campaign ; but as he was coming down the Maese by night, from Maestricht to Holland, with General Opdam and one of the Deputies of the States, he was seized by a party of the French garrison of Gueldres. The Dutch officers had passes, and the Earl, who had none, recollecting that he had accidentally his brother's pass in his pocket, had the presence of mind to personate him, and behaved with the appearance of such unconcern, that he was happily dismissed by the enemy, who were ignorant that they had the British lion in their toils.

While the Earl of Marlborough was employed in reducing the above towns, Sir George Rooke was sent with the confederate fleet of 30 English and 20 Dutch ships of the line, and with transports that had 10,000 English and 400 Dutch soldiers on board, under the command of the Duke of Ormond. This armament made an

ineffectual attack upon Cadiz; but obtaining intelligence of the arrival of the galleons at Vigo, the grand fleet anchored before that port on the 11th of October. The troops were landed; a strong boom was broken, and at length the French Admiral ordered his own ship to be set on fire, and his example was followed by all the rest. The English now endeavoured to quench the flames; but eleven French men of war were burnt and ten taken, six galleons were sunk and eleven taken; after which the victorious fleet returned into England, where the Duke of Ormond became the favourite of the populace, and both he and Sir George Rooke received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament. Marlborough was also received with the highest honours; both Houses sent him their thanks by one of their number, and the Queen created him a Duke.

In 1703, the Duke of Marlborough forced Bonne, Hay, Linburgh, and Gueldres, which opened the communication of the Rhine and the Maese, and added the country between those rivers to his former conquests.

In the next campaign he forced the Bavarians, though sustained by the French, in their strongest trenchments at Schellenburgh; and with a part of the allies defeated the united forces of France and Bavaria. He then took Donawart, and laid all Bavaria under contribution; and on the 2d of August, 1704, gained a most glorious victory at Blenheim, in which the French had 12,000 men killed, and 14,000 made prisoners, among whom was Marshal Tallard, who had

lost

lost his only son in the battle, and was himself dangerously wounded ; he also took seven Generals, and 1200 other officers ; and near 30 squadrons were drowned in the Danube. All their artillery was taken, with 171 standards and 129 colours ; while the conquerors had only 4485 men killed, and 7600 wounded. Three hundred miles of territory were obtained in less than a month ; Bavaria was subdued, and Ratibon, Augsborg, Ulm, Memingen, and all the usurpations of the enemy, were recovered. Upon this victory the Emperor created Marlborough a Prince of the Empire, and gave him the principality of Mindelheim in Swabia. The Queen and Parliament of England built him a spacious palace at the public expence, and the celebrated Mr. Addison wrote his campaign, which Mr. Voltaire observes will be a more lasting monument than the palace of Blenheim. Immediately after this victory, the Duke turned his army from the Danube towards the Rhine and the Moselle, and while his victorious troops were employed in taking several towns, he himself went to the court of Berlin to solicit for 8000 Prussians to be sent into Italy, and going to Holland, in his return settled every thing relating to the ensuing campaign. On his arrival in England he again received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, and was welcomed with the applauses of the whole nation. Marshal Tallard, with nine other Generals and one Colonel, were sent to reside at Nottingham, the Marquis de Marivaux, with three other Generals and thirteen Colonels, were sent to Litchfield, and the

the standards and colours taken at Blenheim were hung up in Westminster-Hall.

On the other hand, Sir George Rooke took Gibraltar, after a siege of two days, on the 24th of July, 1704, and a long and bloody battle was fought at sea within sight of Malaga on the 13th of August. Rooke had 53 ships, and the French Admiral 50 ships of the line, and 24 large galleys. But though the engagement lasted from ten in the morning till night, there was no ship taken, sunk, or burnt, on either side; yet the English lost two Captains, and had 2358 men killed and wounded, and the Dutch lost 400 men. The French had a Commodore and five Captains killed, and suffered as much as the confederates.

Early the following year, the Duke led his troops once more to the Moselle, when the Germans, whom he had saved some months before, refused to second him now, on which he returned with speed to the Maese, relieved Liege, retook Hay, and marched against the French lines before Tirlemont. In these lines the Elector of Bavaria and Marshal Villeroy were posted, with 75,960 men. But the Duke, with 74,000, forced these entrenchments, which were thought impregnable, on the 7th of July, when about 2000 French and Bavarians were killed, and 1300 taken prisoners, with nine standards and many colours; four Generals were among the prisoners, and the rest escaped by flight; while the victorious Marlborough sustained only an inconsiderable loss. The Elector and Marshal Villeroy now retired towards Louvain, and possessed them-

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themselves of the strong camp at Park, which covered Brussels and Louvain. The Duke of Marlborough proposed to attack the enemy in this advantageous post; and not being able to prevail on the Dutch Deputies to undertake that enterprize, he resented their pusillanimity, and complained of them to the States. He then levelled the French lines, dismantled Tirlemont, and ended the campaign with the reduction of Sanvilet.

The same year the brave Earl of Peterborough besieged Barcelona, and took it, notwithstanding it was defended by a garrison of 5000 men, and afterwards protected that city from being plundered. The whole kingdom of Catalonia, and most of Valentia, now submitted to King Charles. The Earl of Peterborough next raised the siege of St. Mattheo, and with 1200 men obliged 7000 to fly before him, took the town of Morviedro, and seized the city of Valencia; while Lieutenant-General Cunningham defeated a body of French under the Chevalier d'Asfield near Lerida, but was mortally wounded.

Villeroy having increased his force, was desirous of engaging Marlborough, who began the campaign of 1706, by assembling the confederate army near Maestricht, and then marched to meet the French General. The French and Bavarian army consisted of 61,120 men, with 62 cannon and 11 mortars; and the confederate army of 59,180 men, 100 cannon, and 20 haubitzers. On the 12th of May, 1706, Marlborough attacked the French at Ramilies, and

and in less than two hours put their whole army to flight. The enemy had 8000 men killed, among whom were Prince Maximilian and Prince Monbazon, 4000 wounded, and 6000 taken prisoners, and among these were four Generals and above 600 officers. All the cannon and baggage fell into the hands of the conquerors, whose loss was only about 2500 men. The vigour and conduct with which Marlborough improved this success, were equal to those with which he gained it: Louvain, Mechlin, Brussels, Liere, Ghent, Oudenard, Antwerp, Damme, and Burges, surrendered; Ostend, Menin, Dendermond and Aeth, were taken; Barbant and Flanders were recovered; the inhabitants of Paris trembled with fear; and had the Dutch supported the Duke of Marlborough, he might have invested the capital of France. He again received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament; a pension of 5000 l. was settled on him and his family out of the Post-office; and the standards and colours taken at the battle of Ramilies were put up in Guildhall.

The same year the French invested Turin; but were obliged to raise the siege by Prince Eugene, after having lost 14,000 men before the town. That great General then attacked the Duke of Orleans in his entrenchments, and entirely routed the French. The same year the Earl of Peterborough raised the siege of Barcelona, and took 106 brass cannon, 47 mortars, and a great quantity of military stores.

In

In Portugal, the Earl of Galway at the head of 20,000 men, took Alcantara, and made the garrison prisoners, though it consisted of 4000 men, and the grandson of Lewis XIV. was driven out of Spain.

The French King now solicited for a peace, which was rejected. The French soldiers were afraid to face the conqueror, and even Vendome sought security in a retreat; nor could all Marlborough's vigilance bring him to an engagement during the whole campaign of 1707: But that year the English forces under the Earl of Galway were entirely defeated at the battle of Almanza by the Duke of Berwick.

The Duke of Savoy and Prince Eugene also invested Toulon, while the confederate fleet, commanded by Sir Cloudsley Shovel, vigorously bombarded the town; but the Duke of Savoy raised the siege in August, and retired into his own country, where he obliged the French to abandon Suza. Sir Cloudsley Shovel, however, destroyed eight ships of the line in the harbour, and several magazines; but on his return to England, unfortunately ran upon the rocks of Scilly, when the Association, in which was the Admiral and 1000 men, perished; and the Eagle, Romney and Firebrand, shared the same fate.

In the beginning of 1708 the French attempted to invade Scotland, but were prevented by Sir George Byng.

The French began the campaign by marching to the banks of the Scheld, with the Duke of Vendome and the Princes of the Blood at their head,

head, when the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene passed the river in their sight, and on the 11th of July, 1708, defeated their whole army at the battle of Oudenard. The French had 4000 men killed and wounded, and 7000 taken prisoners, among whom were eleven Generals and 700 Officers; while the confederates had only 820 men killed. Lisle, the bulwark of the French barrier, was now invested, and the place defended by a numerous garrison and a Marshal of France. Prince Eugene of Savoy commanded, and the Duke of Marlborough covered and sustained the siege. By a new effort of the French the rivers were seized, and the communication with Holland interrupted; but the Duke with great art opened new communications, and the necessary convoys arrived in safety, through countries over-run by the enemy. The French assembled all their forces, and marched to relieve the town; but were only spectators of its fall. The Duke then surprized the enemy's posts on the Scheld; passed that river a second time; relieved Brussels, which was besieged by the Elector of Bavaria; and in the midst of a severe winter obliged Ghent to surrender.

During these transactions in Flanders, Major-General Stanhope with 3000 men landed on the island of Minorca, and attacked fort St. Philip, where the garrison consisted of 1000 Spaniards and 600 French, who surrendered in three days; the men were made prisoners of war; and the whole island of Minorca was conquered in three weeks, with the loss of only 40 men killed and wounded.

The

The French again made proposals of peace to the Dutch, but they demanded such terms as they could not accept; and it being resolved to continue the war, Marlborough in 1709 invested Tournay, while Prince Eugene covered the siege; and having taken the town, the confederates surrounded Mons, and the French attempting to throw succours into the town, brought on the battle of Malplaquet, in which Marlborough obtained another victory; but tho' the loss was very great on both sides, that of the conquerors was the greatest.

All the last winter the Spaniards besieged the English regiment of Hotham, in the castle of Alicant, which was bravely defended by Colonel Syburg, who with amazing resolution stood the blowing up of a mine, that split the rock on which the castle was situated, and perished with several officers, who were swallowed up in the opening, which immediately closed upon them. They had been permitted to see the mine, but refused to surrender the place; and even the garrison, after this terrible accident, persisted in its defence, till General Stanhope came by sea to their relief, and obtained an honourable capitulation for them.

In the next campaign, 1710, the Duke of Marlborough took Douay, Bethune, St. Venant, and Air, which opened a passage into the heart of France, and ended the campaign without a battle; while in Spain both parties were conquerors, and conquered by turns.

In the campaign of 1711, Prince Eugene acted in Germany, and Marlborough was again

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opposed by Marshal Villars, who boasted that his lines were impregnable ; but his Grace entered these lines without losing a man ; encamped upon the Scheld ; and then reduced the strong town of Bouchain, even in sight of the French army, which was superior to his own, and made the garrison, consisting of 6000 men, prisoners of war : And this was the last service performed in the field by the immortal Duke of Marlborough.

Harley and Bolingbroke, the Queen's new ministers, took every method that malice and envy could suggest to exasperate the nation against the Duke, who had so nobly supported its glory, and in the course of ten victorious campaigns, had the honour of receiving ten times the thanks of both houses of Parliament ; and after their having made an unsuccessful attempt against Quebec they dismissed him from his employments, and the command was given to the Duke of Ormond.*

These

* Thus was discharged from the service of his country, an able and experienced General, who never laid siege to a town which he did not take, or fought a battle which he did not gain.

Voltaire, in his character of this great man, says, That he did France as much mischief by his understanding as by his arms ; that he was at St. James's a perfect courtier ; the head of a party in Parliament, and in foreign countries the most able negociator of his time. His address was such, that Fagel, Secretary of the States-General, has declared, That tho' his masters had often resolved to oppose what the Duke was to lay before them, yet his art was such that he ever brought them into his measures. But we have a remarkable instance of the penetration and address of this nobleman in his negotiation with Charles the XIIth of Sweden : The allies were apprehensive this Prince would take part with France in

order

These wars were concluded by the treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, by which Spain and the Indies were confirmed to Philip; but the Netherlands and the Spanish dominions in Italy were separated from that monarchy. The Italian dominions consisted of the kingdoms of Naples, Sicily, Sardinia, and the dutchy of Milan; of which Naples, Sardinia, and Milan, were bestowed upon the Emperor; and Sicily, with the title of King, given to the Duke of Savoy. The Dutch had a barrier given them against France in the Netherlands; while the new ministry, in complaisance to France, only insisted on having Dunkirk demolished, and on possessing Gibraltar and Minorca,

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order to depress the House of Austria, and the Duke of Marlborough was sent to fathom his intentions. When he was introduced to the King, he told him, He should think himself happy if he could be taught under his Majesty's command what he yet wanted to know in the art of war. His Majesty received the compliment cordially, and the Duke, who was never in haste to make propositions, and had learnt, by long experience, the art of penetrating into the sentiments of mankind, and of finding out the secret connection between their inmost thoughts and their actions, gestures, and discourse, fixed his eyes attentively upon the King during the whole interview. When he spoke to him of the victories the allies had obtained, the King seemed pleased; but when he mentioned any circumstance that was favourable to the French, his countenance was so altered, that the Duke could perceive he had a natural aversion to France. He then took occasion to speak to his Majesty on the subject of his war with the Czar; and observing that his eyes always kindled whenever he mentioned that Monarch's name, and perceiving a map of Muscovy lay before him on the table, he was fully satisfied of the King's intention. He, therefore, returned without making any proposal whatever.

morca, which had been taken by the English during the war; though much better terms were before offered by the French.

Parties ran very high in this reign. Dr. Sacheverel endeavoured to raise a spirit of persecution against the Dissenters, and his trial served to inflame the nation. The minds of those of different religious parties were embittered against each other, and the landed and moneyed interest were set at variance, only to serve the ambitious views of a few particular persons. These animosities it is thought shortened the days of the Queen, who died at Kensington on the first of August, 1714, in the 50th year of her age, and the 13th of her reign, having had the misfortune to lose her royal consort Prince George about six years before. She was privately interred in King Henry VIIIth's Chapel.

Her person was of the middle size, majestic and well proportioned; her face round and handsome; her complexion ruddy; her features strong and regular, and her hair of a dark brown. She was possessed of all the virtues that in private life could adorn her sex; and the honour of the British arms, during her reign, was carried to an amazing height. Notwithstanding the violent party feuds, which embittered her repose, and deformed her reign, she was (says an eminent author) as personally dear to her servants, as the interested manners of a court would permit a sovereign to be; and she never made her appearance in public, but she was received with loud and general acclamations. Nor ought the cruel aspersions cast upon her towards the latter end of her reign to be
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urged in abatement of this account, as they were in general derived from the most odious sources; and when truth and time shall take a review of that perplexed period, more cause will be found to lament her situation than to blame her conduct.

It is to be observed, That during the whole reign of King William, she was entirely neglected by the Whigs in compliment to that Prince, who could not prevail on himself to treat her even with common civility. Her first administration had been composed of Tories: The Lords Marlborough and Godolphin were both supposed to be Tories: And it was only for making occasional concessions to the Whigs, that they fell into disgrace with that party; when, and not till then, they became converts to Whiggism. Courtiers, as a celebrated politician observes, were never intended for martyrs; it is, therefore no wonder they should sometimes change those principles on which their happiness seem no longer to depend: Nor is it at all surprizing that the Queen, when she found herself uneasy under the domination of the Dutchess of Marlborough, should have recourse to her old friends to lift her out of her trouble.

She procured a law for the building of 50 new churches within the bills of mortality, and an augmentation of the livings of the poor clergy. In 1703, was a dreadful storm of wind. In 1707, the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland took place; and in 1708, there was a severe frost, which occasioned a great scarcity of provisions.

XXX. GEORGE *the* FIRST,
from 1714 to 1727.



Inur'd alike to council and the field,
 Before his sway see opposition yield :
 In wisdom and the laws he put his trust,
 Was cautious, steady, fortunate and just.

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COTEMPORARIES.

POPES.

Kings of France.

<i>Clement XI.</i>	1700		
<i>Innocent XIII.</i>	1721	<i>Lewis XIV.</i>	1643
<i>Benedict XIII.</i>	1723	<i>Lewis XV.</i>	1715

Emperor.

<i>Charles VI.</i>	1711
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ON the death of Queen Anne, such of the members of the Regency and Privy Council as were in town assembled, and gave orders, That the Elector of Hanover should be proclaimed King; and proper persons were sent to solicit his Majesty's presence in England. He landed at Greenwich on the 18th of September, 1714, where he was received by the Lords of the Regency; on the 20th he made his public entry into the city of London, and was crowned on the 11th of October following. His Majesty immediately made several changes in the ministry; the Duke of Marlborough, who had arrived in England from a voluntary exile just on the Queen's death, was restored to his former posts. Several persons of great distinction were promoted, and Lord Bolingbroke, who had the chief power at the end of the Queen's reign, thought proper to fly, and his example was followed by the Duke of Ormond. The Earl of Oxford was sent to the Tower, where he continued two years, and was then brought to his

trial before the Lords in Westminster-Hall, when he was acquitted, as Lord Summers had also been. Lord Oxford died in retirement, and the Duke of Ormond in exile; but Lord Bolingbroke was at last permitted to return and die in England. These changes were produced without any direct opposition, though different mobs treated each other in a very violent manner, particularly on the coronation; and the high-church mob destroying several meeting-houses, the riot act was passed, which made it felony for twelve persons to continue riotously together an hour after this proclamation was read.

Mean while the Pretender sent over a declaration, in which he asserted his claim to the crown, and the Nonjurors or Jacobites dispersed several seditious papers about the kingdom, and it soon appeared that James the Son of King James II. had a considerable party in England: Upon which Sir William Wyndham, Mr. Thomas Forster, and five other members of the House of Commons, were ordered to be taken into custody. The Habeas Corpus act being some time before suspended, Sir William was sent to the Tower, and afterwards released; and Mr. Forster appeared in arms in Northumberland.

John Erskine Earl of Mar, with several other noblemen and gentlemen, under the pretence of hunting, assembled at the Brae of Mar, and on the 16th of September proclaimed the Pretender King, by the name of James VIII. and their numbers soon encreased to 12,000 men, of which army the Earl was Lieutenant-general. The Earl of Derwentwater, and Mr. Forster, assembled their

their friends in Northumberland, and the latter not only assumed the character of General for the Pretender, but personally declared him King at Warkworth. Mean while Lord Viscount Kenmure headed some noblemen and others in the west of Scotland, and at the same time declared the Pretender King at Moffat in Annandale. Thus were there three numerous bodies of men in open rebellion. Kenmure joined Forster on the borders of Scotland, where they expected a reinforcement from the Earl of Mar. Mean while associations were formed in England for the King.

At length Mackintosh, Kenmure and Forster marched towards Carlisle, but were deserted by 500 Highlanders. Forster had the chief command while in England, and without interruption marched to Preston in Lancashire; but General Willes came up with them at the head of six regiments of dragoons and one of foot, on the 12th of November, when the rebels being surprized, left the pass over the Ribble open, and prepared for their defence in the town, which they defended till the next day, when Gen. Willes being joined by General Carpenter, with three regiments of dragoons, entirely surrounded the place: But though the Scotch were for cutting their way through the dragoons, Forster submitted, and delivered up all his men prisoners at discretion. Upon which the royal troops entered the town in triumph, and took 1489 prisoners, of whom 1022 were Scotch.

The very same day on which these rebels surrendered, those under the Earl of Mar being joined

Joined by the Earl of Seaforth, with his northern clans, attacked the Duke of Argyle who had 3500 men, of which 1200 were dragoons; while the Earl of Mar had 9000 men, of which only 500 were horse. A bloody battle was fought, and both sides claimed the victory: For though the Duke of Argyle's right wing soon routed the enemy's left, the Highlanders charged the Duke's left wing with such fury, that, warding off their bayonets with their targets, and rushing with their broad swords among the ranks, they obliged that wing to retire.

On the 22d of December the Pretender landed at Peterhead, and was conducted to Fetterosse by his principal adherents, where he was proclaimed King, and assumed all the state of royalty. He had his court at Scoon, and his head quarters at Perth. But the rebel chiefs finding it impossible to resist the royal forces, resolved to abandon the whole enterprize. They, however, burnt several villages to distress the Duke of Argyle in his march, who in January, 1716, obliged them to abandon Perth; from whence they retired to Montrose, where the Pretender privately made his escape on board a French ship and returned to France; upon which General Gordon led them into the mountains, where they dispersed.

This formidable opposition was now entirely suppressed: But of all the noblemen sentenced to die by the House of Lords, none, except the Lords Derwentwater and Kenmure, were beheaded; and only a small number of those of the lower rank were executed, in comparison of the many who were found guilty. About 1000
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who submitted to the royal mercy petitioned for transportation, which was granted, and they were shipped for America. [It is remarkable, that Lord Lovat, and Lord Kilmarnock who was then a minor, and who both suffered for rebellion in 1746 and 1747, now distinguished themselves in the service of King George the First.]

Charles XII. of Sweden had some concern in this attempt in Scotland; and in 1717 formed, in conjunction with Spain, a scheme for setting the Pretender on the throne of England, on account of his Britannic Majesty's having purchased the dutchies of Bremen and Verden of the King of Denmark, who had conquered them from the Swedes; but his first attempt being defeated by sending Sir George Byng with a squadron into the Baltic, he had not time to form a second; for he was the next year killed at the siege of Fredericshal.

The same year the Lower House of Convocation drew up a representation against certain tenets advanced by Dr. Benjamin Hoadly, Bishop of Bangor, in his work entitled *A Preservative against the Principles and Practices of the Nonjurors*, and in a sermon preached before the King, entitled, *The Nature of the Kingdom of Christ, shewing it not to be of this World*. This sermon gave rise to a prodigious number of pamphlets, and both the above works were censured by the convocation; whereupon his Majesty prorogued that body, which has never since sat to do business.

The King of Spain having taken Sardinia, and invaded Sicily, the Emperor, Great Britain, France

France and Holland, formed the quadruple alliance against his Most Catholic Majesty; upon which Sir George Byng was sent with 21 ships of the line into the Mediterranean, where the Spaniards had a fleet of 27 men of war; and on the 31st of July, 1718, Sir George came up with the Spanish Admiral Don Antonio de Castinata off Cape Passaro on the south east point of Sicily, where, in an engagement, he defeated the Spanish Admiral, took ten men of war and burnt four, and even took the Admiral and Rear-Admiral prisoners. After which he destroyed seven Spanish men of war, and great quantities of naval stores, on the coast of Sicily and Biscay, and by his conduct principally contributed towards driving the Spaniards out of Sicily.

War being declared against Spain in December, a Spanish squadron, with 10,000 regular troops under the Duke of Ormond, was sent to invade England; but were happily dispersed, and rendered unable to proceed, by a violent storm. However, the Marquis of Tullibardine, and the Earls of Seaforth and Marischal, with 307 Spanish soldiers, landed in Scotland, and were joined by 2000 Highlanders; but being attacked by General Wightman with 1200 men on the 10th of June, were entirely defeated, and those who escaped fled to the mountains. But not a man suffered for this rebellion.

This insult was returned by Lord Cobham's making a descent upon Spain, and taking Vigo; after which the King of Spain acceded to the quadruple alliance.

In 1720 was set on foot the scandalous project of the South-sea Company, in imitation of the Mississippi scheme, which had the year before half ruined France ; when means were found to raise the price of stocks to near ten times its real value, by which a great number of adventurers were ruined, while the few who were in the secret raised immense fortunes. However, the next year the Parliament enquired into this affair, and large penalties were inflicted on the Directors of that company.

Robert Walpole, Esq; who with Mr. Pultney had before resigned their posts at court, now came again into place ; and Mr. Walpole gradually fixed himself in that ministerial power which he held above 20 years. About this time a misunderstanding arising between the King and the Prince of Wales, all who were disgusted in the King's service crowded to the Prince ; After which there was a formal reconciliation. The new ministers, who had lately gained the ascendant, soon fell out among themselves ; for Mr. Pultney being displeased at Mr. Walpole's proceedings, who had obtained the knighthood, first of the Bath and then of the Garter, threw up his place of Cofferer ; when high disputes arose in Parliament, and a paper war ensued, attended with an amazing inundation of papers and pamphlets, which, tho' many of them were well written, did more service to the stationer, publisher, and printer, than to the public.

In 1722, the Earl of Orrery, Dr. Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, Lord North and Grey, and afterwards

afterwards the Duke of Norfolk, were committed to the Tower for high treason; and in the beginning of the next year Dr. Friend, Christopher Layer, John Plunket, George Kelly, and Dennis Kelly, were also seized and imprisoned: But all except Dr. Atterbury, Layer, Plunket and Kelly, were admitted to bail; after which Dr. Atterbury was banished and ended his life in France, George Kelly and Plunket were imprisoned for life, and on the 17th of May, 1723, Layer was hanged and quartered at Tyburn, and his head fixed on Temple bar.

In 1726 the Spaniards invested Gibraltar, which was defended by Col. Clayton, but after keeping open the trenches before it for several months, raised the siege, having lost 10,000 men before the place without destroying more than 300 of the garrison. A little before this the brave Admiral Hosier was sent with a considerable fleet to block up the galleons in Porto-Bello; but was suffered to lie inactive at the Basimento islands till he died.

This year his Majesty set out for his German dominions and landed in Holland; but was taken ill in his coach on the road to Hanover, and died two days after at his brother's palace at Osnabrug, on the 11th of June, 1727, in the 68th year of his age, and the 13th of his reign, and was interred at Hanover.

King George I. was of a moderate stature: His features were regular and manly, and his countenance grave and majestic. He was an able and experienced General, and a consummate politician: He governed England with great mild-

mildness ; was an enemy to persecution, and never encroached on the civil or religious liberties of his subjects.

In this reign there were two remarkable eclipses of the sun, the first in April, 1715, when the sun was totally darkened in London for near three minutes and a half ; the birds flew to shelter, and all nature seemed in astonishment : The second was in May, 1724, but was not quite total. On the 14th of September, 1715, the tide in the river Thames ebbed so low that several persons waded cross it near Whitehall. About this time five rioters were executed at the end of Salisbury-court, for endeavouring to pull down a mug-house in that court : There were several of these mug-houses in the city and suburbs, all of which were frequented by the zealous friends of the Hanover succession, who formed themselves into clubs or societies, in order to oppose the mobs raised by the enemies of the government. In 1716, great northern lights appeared in the air, and much terrified the populace ; and in the same year there was a severe frost which continued three months, during which a fair was kept, and an ox roasted on the Thames : This year also the triennial act was repealed. In 1718 guineas were reduced to 21 shillings. In 1719, the occasional conformity and schism acts were repealed. In 1720, a large ball of fire with a long train was seen to pass over the whole kingdom after sun-set, which for a moment gave a light nearly equal to that of mid-day. In 1721, the experiment of inoculating for the small-pox was tried on seven criminals in Newgate, and the practice first adopted in England. In 1723,
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the Mint in Southwark, which from its being a privileged place was a harbour for all kind of villains, was suppressed. In 1725, his Majesty revived the order of Knights of the Bath. In 1726, an earthquake was felt in the west of England; and towards the end of this reign Mary Tofts, a mean woman of Godalming in Surry, pretended to be delivered of a great number of rabbits one after another, and so artfully carried on the cheat, tho' attended by the principal physicians and surgeons in the kingdom, that many of the most learned men-midwives maintained for a considerable time that she was no impostor.

The sums granted by Parliament in this reign amounted to 27,786,468 l. which was so much more than sufficient to answer the purposes of government, that some historians say near 800,000 l. a year might have been paid towards the discharge of the national debt, had there been proper management in the ministry: For during this period the expences of the army and navy were not very great; the number of seamen in 1715, being reduced to 10,000, and so continued till 1727; and the army being at the same time reduced to 10,000, and not augmented till 1723. But a part of this profusion may, perhaps, be charged to the anti-ministerial party, who were continually pressing those in power, and obliged them to defend themselves at the public expence. A Minister then at the head of Great Britain may be compared to a jockey riding an unruly horse; the rest of the riders were driving at him, and instead of pursuing his master's business, and spurring for the plate, his chief attention was employed to keep himself in the saddle.

XXXI. GEORGE *the* SECOND,
from 1727 to 1760.



In issue, happiest of the kingly strain ;
Triumphant o'er rebellion and its train :
Success in arms attends each hostile strife,
And crown'd with glory, he resigns his life.

C O T E M P O R A R I E S.

P O P E S.		Charles VII.	1742
<i>Benedict XIII.</i>	1723	<i>Francis</i>	1745
<i>Clement XII.</i>	1730		
<i>Benedict XIV.</i>	1745	King of France.	
Emperors.		Lewis XV.	1715
<i>Charles VI.</i>	1711		

AS his late Majesty died abroad, his death was not known till the 14th of June, 1727, when about three o'clock in the afternoon a messenger brought the melancholy news to Sir Robert Walpole, who was then at Chelsea, and immediately carried it to the Prince and Princess of Wales at Richmond, who hasting to town, and a council being called, his Majesty King George II. was, the next morning, proclaimed King: But the coronation was deferred till the 11th of October, when the King and Queen were crowned at Westminster with great magnificence. His Majesty's first public act was his declaring his resolution to maintain our civil and religious liberties; a promise which he inviolably observed.

Great numbers of those who seemed dissatisfied under the government of the late King, now expressed their confidence in this; and for a time the whole nation seemed united; the very men, who before had opposed the former ministry, freely concurring in an act for augmenting the civil list, on account of the largeness of his Majesty's family.

His Majesty found the nation engaged in a war with the Spaniards, who were still besieging Gibraltar,

Gibraltar, while the British Squadron in the West Indies lay rotting before the Bastimentos. The Admirals Hosier, Hopson, and St. Loe, who succeeded each other in the command, died on board their ships, from the inclemency of the climate; and a prodigious mortality prevailed among the men, without their being permitted to take revenge on their enemies.

In 1729, a peace was concluded at Seville between Great Britain, France and Spain, by which it was agreed, That reparation should be made for the ships and effects taken on both sides, and that Don Carlos, the second son of the King of Spain, should have the eventual succession of Tuscany. Gaston de Medicis, the Grand Duke of Tuscany, was then alive, and when he died, his dominions were transferred to the Duke of Lorraine, whose dutchy was ceded to France.

In 1733, the excise-scheme was brought into Parliament, for putting the duties on tobacco and wine under the laws of excise: But the Ministry found this so unpopular, that they were afraid of venturing upon such an extension of the excise laws, which were considered as the badges of slavery.

In 1737, the British merchants made great complaints against the Spanish depredations in America, which were followed by a convention between the two crowns, and that convention was followed by a declaration of war against Spain on the 29th of October, 1739. The first blow was struck by the brave Admiral Vernon, on the 22d of November, 1740, who, with six ships, took Porto Bello. He immediately became

idolized by the populace, and had the honour of receiving the thanks of both Houses of Parliament. The next year he was sent with 29 ships of the line, and a body of land-forces, consisting of 10,000 soldiers, under the command of General Wentworth, in order to attack Carthagena: But though he destroyed six Spanish ships of the line, and seven galleons, the attempt miscarried, through a disagreement between the Admiral and the General, who lost 2000 men in attacking Fort Lazar; nor were they more successful in an attempt to reduce the island of Cuba.

In 1742, the Spaniards invaded Georgia, but were repulsed with great loss by General Oglethorpe, who thus secured Georgia and Carolina.

Mean while Commodore Anson carried terror into the South Seas. He set sail from England with a squadron of five men of war in 1740, and after having suffered the most dreadful distresses, surprised and took Païta on the 12th of November, 1741, and having plundered and burnt the town, and seized several Spanish ships, he on his return, by the way of the East Indies, took the Manilla galleon, loaded with treasure. He returned to England in 1744, with the riches he had acquired from the Spaniards, which amounted to about 400,000*l.* and this treasure was carried in triumph to London in 32 waggons.

While the Kings of Great Britain and Spain were carrying on the war, the Emperor Charles VI. died on the 9th of October, 1745, and was succeeded in his hereditary dominions by his eldest daughter Maria Theresa Walpurge: And
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though Spain, Russia, Great Britain, the States General, Denmark, Saxony, and at last France, had guarantied the succession of the Austrian dominions to the female issue of Charles VI. that Prince was scarce laid in his grave, before his daughter was shook upon the throne: The Elector of Bavaria claimed his right by the pen; and the King of Prussia, who had pretensions on Silesia, asserted his by the sword, and with an army of 100,000 of the best disciplined troops in Europe, suddenly invaded Silesia, took that whole province, and being joined by the King of France and other Princes, procured the imperial crown for the Elector of Bavaria; while the Queen of Hungary found a powerful ally in the King of Great Britain: Sardinia espoused her cause; Holland came to her assistance; and at last Russia agreed to march an army in her defence. The Elector of Bavaria ascended the imperial throne in January, 1742, by the name of Charles VII. but was one of the most unhappy Princes upon earth; his electoral dominions were over-run by the Austrians, the French driven out of Bohemia with incredible loss, and the King of Prussia concluded a peace at Breslau with the Queen of Hungary.

Sir Robert Walpole being dismissed from his employments, and Cardinal Fleury the Prime Minister of France dying, those two courts were no longer governed by the pacific measures of those ministers; and, therefore, England and France, under the name of auxiliaries, became principals in the war. The Earl of Stair was sent into Flanders with 16,000 British troops, where they were reinforced by some Austrians, and

and entered Germany to join the Hanoverians. His Britannic Majesty and the Duke of Cumberland joined the allied army, which amounted to 40,000 men, at Aschaffenberg. Marshal Noailles, with a much superior force, blocked them up between the river Maine and a mountain, which obliged his Majesty to make a dangerous march that brought on the battle of Dettingen, fought on the 16th of June, 1743, in which the King of Great Britain had the glory of the field: The French lost near 4000 men, while the allies had only 2000 killed and wounded; among the former was General Clayton, and among the latter the Duke of Cumberland.

In the beginning of the year 1744, Admiral Matthews blocked up the Spanish Admiral Navarro in Toulon, who being convoyed out of that harbour on 10th of February by De Court the French Admiral, Matthews attacked the combined fleets of France and Spain. The British fleet consisted of about 40 sail, and the combined fleet was much upon an equality; but Admiral Matthews receiving no assistance from Vice-Admiral Lestock, the French succeeded in convoying the Spanish squadron. No ships were lost on either side, though many men were killed, among whom was the brave Captain Cornwall, whose loss was so much regretted, that the Parliament erected a magnificent monument to his memory in Westminster-Abbey.

The same year war was declared against France; but Marshal Wade, who commanded the British, Austrian and Dutch troops in the Netherlands, was obliged to act defensively, while Marshal Noailles took Courtray, Menin, Ypres,

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Ypres, Furnes, and Fort Knock. About this time Marshal Belleisle and his brother were seized in Hanover, and sent prisoners to England.

In 1745, the Emperor Charles VII. died at Munich, sick of the world, stript of his paternal dominions, and enjoying only the title of Emperor. The Hessians now passed from the French into British pay, and the Grand Duke of Tuscany, consort to the Queen of Hungary, was elected Emperor.

Marshal Saxe was now at the head of the French army, and the Duke of Cumberland, with Prince Waldeck and Marshal Konigsfegg, commanded that of the confederates, who undertook the relief of Tournay, which was invested by the French; and this brought on a general battle at Fontenoy, on the 1st of May, in which the French, who greatly exceeded the allies in number, lost about 9000 men, and the allies about 6000, yet they were obliged to retire back to Fontenoy; but made an admirable retreat under the conduct of the Duke and the Earl of Crauford. The same year the people of New England, assisted by ten men of war under Commodore Warren, bravely attacked and took the island of Cape Breton, with the loss of only 100 men: But were afterwards obliged to part with this valuable acquisition in exchange for Madras, which had been taken by the French.

Lewis XV. now revived the Pretender's claim to these kingdoms, and a strong fleet was equipped at Brest to carry over his eldest son Charles-Francis-Edward to Great Britain, with 12,000 soldiers commanded by Marshal Saxe; but this

expedition was happily frustrated by a storm, in which many of the troops were lost, and the winds and waves providentially saved England from a French invasion. However, on the 14th of July the young Pretender failed to Scotland in a small frigate of 18 guns, attended only by eight persons of distinction and five servants, and landed on the 27th of July at Moidart in Lochaber, between the islands of Sky and Mull. He soon obtained a considerable force, and proceeding through several parts of Scotland, had his father proclaimed King, while he himself assumed the title of Prince-Regent. On the 17th of August he entered Edinburgh, and on the 21st of September defeated Sir John Cope at Preston-Pans.

His Britannic Majesty now returned to England; the troops were ordered from Flanders; 6000 auxiliaries were sent from Holland, and 15 noblemen raised 15 new regiments at their own expence. The young Pretender having now 6000 foot, took Carlisle on the 15th of November, and when he had garrisoned that place, about 4000 of the rebels marched to Manchester, and from thence to Derby, at which time the Duke of Cumberland lay at Stone in Staffordshire with an army of 12,000 men, while Marshal Wade advanced from Newcastle, when the rebels, finding themselves in danger of being inclosed by two armies, retreated back, and were closely followed by the Duke, who having obliged the garrison of Carlisle to surrender, left the command of the army to Lieutenant-General Hawley, and returned to London.

General

General Hawley now marched to Falkirk to raise the siege of Stirling. The Pretender marched to attack him, and an engagement ensued on the 17th of January, in which the dragoons fled at Falkirk as they had done at Preston-Pans; the foot followed, and the rebels were again victorious, and both in this and the other defeat, the rebels seized all the artillery and baggage. The Duke of Cumberland now went to Edinburgh, and took upon himself the command of the army, which had been greatly reinforced, and on the 15th of April came to an engagement near Culloden House, four miles east of Inverness, and obtained a complete victory, in which about 1400 of the rebels were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners, tho' the royal army had only 60 men killed, and 280 wounded. The fugitive rebels dispersed themselves in separate bodies, and being closely pursued, an end was put to the rebellion. The Earl of Kilmarnock, Lord Balmerino, Lord Lovat, and Mr. Radcliffe, brother to the late Earl of Derwentwater, were afterwards beheaded for this rebellion on Tower-hill; and the whole number who suffered death were no more than sixty-six.

In 1746, an unsuccessful attempt was made against Port l'Orient.

In 1747, the Admirals Anson and Warren were sent to intercept a French squadron of five ships of the line and five frigates, and coming to an engagement on the 30th of May, 24 leagues off Cape Finisterre, took the whole squadron, upon which Admiral Anson made another triumphal procession into London: The bullion taken

taken in this fleet being carried to the bank in twenty waggons. Voltaire estimates this loss of the French at near a million sterling. The next month the St. Domingo fleet was intercepted, and 46 merchant-ships taken; and soon after this Rear-Admiral Hawke took six French men of war.

On the 21st of June, 1747, the Duke of Cumberland engaged the French at Val, when the Dutch horse shamefully fled, which obliged the allies to retreat towards Maëstricht, with the loss of 6000 men, tho' the French lost 11,000. The French had in this campaign taken Sluys, Sas-Van-Ghent, Hulst, Axel, and Terneuse, and now laid siege to Bergen-op-Zoom, which they took, after the loss of 20,000 men; but the march of the Russian troops into Germany, occasioned a cessation of hostilities in Flanders, which was soon followed by a general peace, proclaimed at London on the 2d of February, 1749.

The French, however, had no sooner raised a powerful navy, than they broke the peace by erecting forts on the back of the British settlements in America, and in 1754, attempted to seize Nova Scotia: Upon which Adm. Boscawen was sent in 1755 to protect that Province, who took many of the French ships: But on the 9th of July General Braddock was surprized in his march to Fort Duquesne on the back of Virginia, by a body of French and Indians: Two thousand soldiers immediately fled, leaving their General, who with many of the officers and 200 men were killed. The news of this shameful defeat, however, was soon followed by that of a victory obtained by Sir William Johnson over the French
and

and Indians near the English fort at Oswego, on the Lake Ontario, at the back of New-England.

The French now threatened an invasion, and, in 1756, 12,000 Hanoverians and 6000 Hessians were sent for to guard Britain. The Queen of Hungary, who owed all she possessed to Great Britain, instead of opposing France, (her and our natural enemy,) entered into an alliance with that power, in order to strip the King of Prussia of part of his dominions. Mean while the French landed 16,000 men in Minorca, which was bravely defended by General Blakeney. His Majesty declared war against France on the 17th of May, 1756, and sent Admiral Byng, with thirteen ships of the line and five frigates, to the relief of Minorca; La Galissoniere, the French Admiral, attacked him with twelve ships of the line and five frigates: when after an engagement of four hours, without much damage on either side, the French Admiral retired to Minorca, and Admiral Byng to Gibraltar, which occasioned the loss of Minorca, for which he was tried and shot at Portsmouth.

During these transactions in Europe, Admiral Watson, who was sent to the East Indies to secure the Trade, and curb the French in those parts, attacked and took Geriah belonging to Tulagee Angria the pirate, burnt his ships in the harbour, and seized all his ammunition, and his treasure, which in money and effects amounted to about 130,000 l.

In May, 1756, the Nabob of Bengal, pretending that he had received many insults from the English governor, raised an army of 70,000

men, with which he attacked and took Calcutta, and some other English forts on that coast, ravaged the factories, and forced a great number of the company's servants into a close prison, called the Black Hole, about eighteen feet square, with no other entrance for air, but two iron windows. In such a burning climate, it is terrible to conceive the situation of wretches thus immured and suffocating each other. The prison was filled with groans, shrieks, contest and confusion; which soon sunk into languor and desolation. Of 146 who were thus confined, 23 only survived; and of these, several died of putrid fevers upon their being set free.

Colonel Clive went to revenge this barbarous treatment of the English, and but small opposition was made, either to the fleet or the army, till they came before Calcutta; but Admiral Watson no sooner appeared before that town with two ships, than he received a furious fire from all the batteries, which he returned, and within two hours the place was abandoned. Soon after Hughly, a city of considerable trade was reduced with as little difficulty, and all the Nabob of Bengal's store-houses and granaries destroyed. This inhuman Prince, incensed at his losses, assembled an army of 15,000 foot and 10,000 horse, in order to expel the English out of his dominions. Colonel Clive on receiving the first intelligence, obtained of the Admiral a reinforcement of 600 seamen, and adding them to his little army, advanced to meet the Nabob, notwithstanding his superior force, when the victory soon declared in favour

of

of the English. Colonel Clive soon after took the town of Cutwa; and again coming up with the Nabob, after a short contest, put him and his army to flight, with terrible slaughter.

Ali-kan the Nabob's Prime Minister, now assuming the sovereignty, and espousing the cause of the English, was solemnly proclaimed Nabob of Bengal, Bahar, and Oriza, in the room of his former master, whom he soon after put to death, and at the same time liberally granted all the demands of the English, above two millions sterling being paid to the company and sufferers at Calcutta.

Soon after this engagement, Colonel Clive being joined by 300 of the Bombay troops, which encreased his forces to 700 Europeans and 1600 Indians, marched to the French settlement of Chandénagore, the strongest and most important of any possessed by that nation in the Bay of Bengal, where being seconded by the Admirals Watson and Pocock, they in conjunction attacked and took it: 1700 men were made prisoners, and several ships in the harbour, with 183 pieces of cannon, three mortars, and a considerable quantity of ammunition, were taken.

The success of the English alarmed the French ministry. General Lally, an Irishman, was sent to India with a considerable reinforcement, and under his conduct the affairs of the French seemed for some time to wear a better face; he took Fort St. David's, plundered a town belonging to the King of Tanjour, who was in alliance with the English, and afterwards laid siege to his capital

capital. Failing in this design, he attempted the siege of Madrafs, the chief settlement of the English company upon the coast of Coromandel, but without success; and this miscarriage so intirely depressed the ardour of the French, that they appeared quite dispirited in almost every ensuing engagement.

Soon after our troops, headed by Colonel Coote, an officer of prudence and bravery, marched against General Lally, took the city of Wandewash in his way, reduced Carangoly, and at length came up with the French General, who was equally desirous of an engagement. The canonading began early in the morning with fury on both sides, and the engagement continued with great resolution till about two in the afternoon, when the French gave way, and fled to their camp; which, however, they as hastily abandoned, leaving their cannon and the field of battle to the conquerors. In consequence of this victory, they lost the city of Arcot; and nothing now remained to them of all their vast possessions in India but Pondicherry, their strongest, largest and most beautiful settlement in that part of the world. Colonel Clive sat down before it by land, while Admiral Saunders shut up their harbour by sea, and though the rainy season was coming on, neither rain nor storms could abate their assiduity. While the French were reduced to the utmost distress by famine, their hopes were revived, by a large part of the English fleet being wrecked, and the rest driven from their station; but in four days Admiral Saunders appeared again, and
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in a short time after the English took possession of this important settlement, which terminated the power of France in India.

However in America the French had taken Oswego. But soon after General Amherst made a conquest of the important island of Cape Breton. Two other operations were carried on in that part of the world at the same time; one against Fort Du Quesne, which was successful, and removed from our colonies the terror caused by the cruel incursions of the Indians; and the other against Crown Point and Ticonderago, in which the English were repulsed with loss. But in 1759, the Fort of Niagara, which had preserved the communication between the northern and western French settlements, was taken by General Johnson. General Amherst took possession both of the Fort of Crown Point, and that of Ticonderago, which had been deserted; and General Wolfe, assisted by a fleet commanded by Admiral Saunders, exerted the utmost bravery and conduct against the French who defended Quebec, but received a mortal wound just as the enemy were put to flight; and the surrender of that city, with the total reversion of all Canada, was the consequence of this victory. The French, 'tis true, in the ensuing season, made a vigorous effort to retake it; but the town held out till it was relieved by a British fleet under the command of Lord Colville. In short, Montreal at last surrendered, and the whole extensive country of Canada fell under the power of his Britannic Majesty; while in the West Indies the islands of Guadalupe and

Marigalante were taken by Commodore Moore and General Barrington.

During the course of these astonishing conquests in India and America, our great ally the King of Prussia was every moment in danger of being crushed by the united efforts of Germany, France and Russia, whom with amazing conduct and intrepidity he opposed on every side. While that Prince was in this situation, a body of 3800 Hanoverians, commanded by the Duke of Cumberland, were obliged to retire before the French, under the command of the Duke of Richlieu; and tho' they at length made a stand, they were unable to repulse an army that greatly exceeded them in numbers; and retreating towards Stade, into a country where provisions could not be obtained, they were compelled to lay down their arms, and sign the capitulation called the treaty of Closter-Seven. But this treaty was no sooner concluded, than both sides began to complain of infractions; and the Hanoverians, now oppressed, again took arms, on which Prince Ferdinand of Brunswic put himself at their head. Soon after the Duke of Marlborough was sent into Germany with a body of British forces to the assistance of Prince Ferdinand, where they behaved with great bravery. The French were driven from the electorate of Hanover, and Commodore Holmes recovered the town of Embden. Soon after the battle of Crevelt was fought, in which Prince Ferdinand, who then commanded the British forces, gave the French a signal defeat. This was followed by the glorious victory of Minden, in which
the

French, commanded by Marshal Contades, lost above 10,000 men; and by a signal victory gained over the French near Erndorf, and at Warburgh, in which the Marquis of Granby, and the English forces, acquired immortal honour.

While these advantages were obtaining in Germany, the British troops under the Duke of Marlborough landed at Cuncalle on the coast of France; but finding themselves too weak to attack that town, burnt about 100 sail of shipping. Soon after, the late Duke of York went on board the *Essex*, commanded by Commodore Howe, and sailed with the fleet to Cherbourg, where they took the cannon and mortars, and destroyed the famous bastion and fortifications, and burnt all the ships in the harbour. The English fleet then sailed towards St. Maloes, and landed some miles from St. Cas; but being opposed by the Duke d'Aiguillon, Governor of Brittany, about 600 of the English were killed in their retreat, and 400 were taken prisoners.

With respect to our naval exploits they were no less glorious; but we shall only mention two or three: Commodore Keppel took the island, forts, and garrison of Goree, on the coast of Africa. Admiral Boscawen, engaging a squadron commanded by M. de la Clue, defeated him, and took or burnt four large French men of war; and Admiral Hawke coming up with the French fleet under Conflans, took or sunk five of their ships, forced eight of them up the river Villaine, and dispersed the rest, for which he received the thanks of the House of Commons,

mons, and Captain Byron destroyed in the gulf of St. Lawrence three French frigates and 22 schooners.

Amidst all these glorious instances of success, which raised the military glory of this nation to the greatest height, died George II. on the 25th of October 1760. He had risen at his usual early hour, and observed to his attendants, that as the weather was fine, he would walk out; but in a few minutes after, being left alone, he was heard to fall down upon the floor. This brought his attendants into the room, who lifted him into bed, when, in a faint voice, he desired that the Princess Amelia might be sent for; but before her arrival he expired in the 77th year of his age, and the 33d of his reign.

His Majesty was rather distinguished by solid than by shining abilities. His judgment and good sense would not permit him to attempt either the civil or the religious liberties of the people. He was subject to sudden and violent passion, but the goodness of his heart prevented his being hurried by it into acts of cruelty; and tho' it influenced his behaviour for a moment, it made no change in his general conduct. He was plain and direct in his intentions, true to his word, steady in his favour and protection to his servants; not parting even with his ministers till compelled by the voice of the people. He was rather near than lavish of his private treasures; and in short possessed rather the useful than the splendid virtues; but those virtues justly procured him the love and veneration of his People.



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